


THE TIMES


No. 66,243

THURSDAY JULY 2 1998


http://www.the-times.co.uk



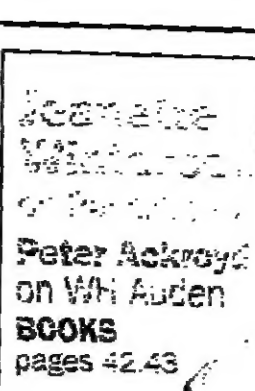
England: Grace in defeat
JASON COWLEY
page 23



CLASS OF 98
OLIVER HOLT
page 52



My friend Beckham
GARY NEVILLE
page 52



World Cup
Peter Ackroyd on Whi Auden
BOOKS
pages 42, 43

Check your scores today, p46

Treasury grabs £1bn defence windfall

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Defence Secretary has been forced by the Treasury to hand over up to £1 billion in savings in spite of winning Cabinet approval for his new blueprint for the Armed Forces.

George Robertson has been told by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, that he has been blessed with a windfall of extra cash because of favourable exchange rates over the past 12 months and amended contracts overseas, and he wants the money returned to the Treasury coffers.

Mr Robertson told the Cabinet

Overseas Policy and Defence Committee, which last week approved his strategic defence review proposals, that he could save £500 million through a more efficient equipment procurement system and greater emphasis on tri-service training.

Mr Brown was not satisfied and demanded a cut of £2 billion in the defence budget. After a Cabinet argument, a compromise was reached. Mr Robertson would agree to a £1 billion savings package, the £500 million he had earmarked through efficiency measures and another £500 million to be handed over to the Treasury from the so-called exchange rate windfall. Ministry of Defence

sources said that, although Mr Robertson's budget had been cut, he had fought off the Chancellor's £2 billion demand. The cuts would not affect the implementation of the defence review proposals, which will be published on Wednesday.

The deal won by Mr Robertson also involves a compromise with the Foreign Office.

Robin Cook, who launched the strategic defence review with Mr Robertson last summer, emphasising that it was foreign policy-led, was angry over the Defence Ministry's plans to reduce the number of frigates and destroyers from 35 to 32.

The Foreign Secretary argued

that there was an increasing number of occasions when the Royal Navy was required to perform "defence diplomacy" missions around the world. HMS Cornwall, a frigate, was sent to Sierra Leone after the overthrow of the junta earlier this year for "humanitarian" reasons, and the same warship is now on vigil off Guinea-Bissau in West Africa.

To meet Mr Cook's concerns, next week's White Paper will make it clear that the MoD will devise a novel approach to deploying frigates on operational missions, largely through cutting down on the length of each patrol duty. The White Paper will also give a

reprieve for Rosyth dockyard in Fife, which lost out to Devonport Dockyard in the bid to refit all the Royal Navy's nuclear submarines, including the new Trident ballistic missile boats. Rosyth is to be given more submarine refit work up to 2003.

After another battle between Mr Robertson and the Treasury, the Cabinet has approved the number of nuclear "hunter-killer" submarines to be cut from 12 to 10, but the reduction will be phased over five years. The Navy will also be allowed to have its full complement of five new Astute class submarines. Only three have been ordered.

The most significant part of the Defence White Paper will be the declaration by Mr Robertson that Britain will pursue a "national maritime military strategy", scrapping the old continental military strategy, based on a concentration of troops in Germany.

The focus is to be on developing a capability to mount expeditionary forces to hotspots around the world. To this end the army is to have the capability for the first time to launch simultaneously two divisions, each with three brigades.

Mr Robertson has won the approval of the Cabinet to recruit 3,500 more soldiers for the Army's skilled services, such as Royal

Engineers, Royal Signals and logistics regiments. The Navy will get two larger aircraft carriers to replace the present three small carriers, the Territorial Army will be cut from 57,000 to 40,000, there will be more tri-service training, and more power assigned to the Permanent Joint Headquarters, based at Northwood, west London, further reducing the individual impact of the single services.

Gordon Brown is to announce details of the comprehensive spending review, setting government budgets for the next three years, on Tuesday, July 14.

Law tightened, page 2

Contrite Beckham asks to be forgiven

By RICHARD DUCE AND DANIEL McGRORY

DAVID BECKHAM apologised publicly for jeopardising England's World Cup chances as he flew home with his team mates last night.

Minutes before the England squad arrived back on a Concorde, 23-year-old Beckham issued a statement saying he was deeply sorry.

He confessed: "This is without doubt the worst moment of my career." The Manchester United player managed a rueful smile for the crowd of about a thousand waiting to greet the team at Heathrow.

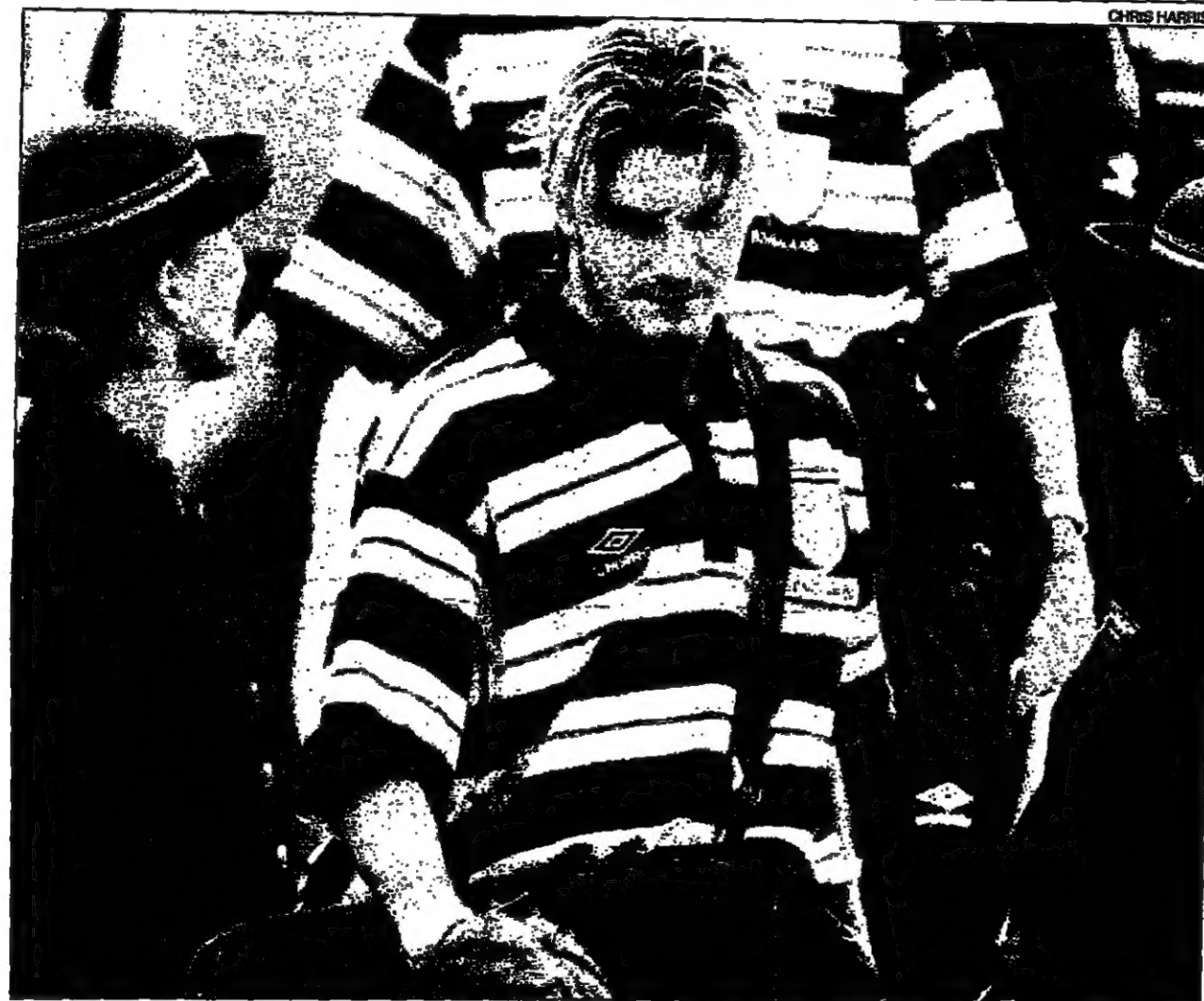
The loudest cheer was reserved for the youngest of the party, Michael Owen, who

won a players' poll to sit in the cockpit as the Concorde, specially laid-on by British Airways, landed. The shy tournament hero leant from the cockpit window waving a St George flag.

Fans may not easily forgive Beckham for being sent off at the start of the second half but the Prime Minister was among those saying the errant midfielder should not carry the blame for England's elimination by Argentina.

Beckham, said to be Britain's highest earning player at £8.1 million a year, said: "I will always regret my actions. I have apologised to the England players and management and I want every England supporter to know how deeply sorry I am." He was last night believed to be flying to America to be with his Posh Spice fiancée, Victoria Adams.

Tony Blair had earlier telephoned Glenn Hoddle, the England coach. He said England had a "mountain of courage and molehill of luck". The Prime Minister absolved Beckham, saying fans should remember the good things he had done during the tournament, adding: "I should think no one feels worse about it



A rueful David Beckham faced England fans as he left a British Airways Concorde at Heathrow last night

than David Beckham does. He is obviously going to have to learn from that.

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, also spoke up for the player saying: "I do not think Beckham needs to be reminded of what happened. He will be pretty sore about it."

Beckham's colleagues appeared to bear no grudges. The captain, Alan Shearer, said: "He apologised in the dressing room. There is no more he can do." Paul Ince - who with David Batty missed

a penalty in Tuesday's 4-3 penalty shoot-out defeat by Argentina - threw a protective arm around him as they boarded a coach at Heathrow.

Hoddle, last off the coach, waved to the crowd, shrugged his shoulders and mouthed: "We tried." He said that Beckham would learn.

The midfielder's mother, Sandra, said tearfully: "He hasn't let us down, we are very proud of him."

Among BA workers at Heathrow attitudes were

slightly different. Tim Evans, 20, an apprentice engineer, echoed the voices of many saying: "I think Beckham has let the country down but the team did England proud and I am proud to be English."

On England's last night in France 98 there were more football-related arrests on this side of the Channel. Police in Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Dorset were kept busy as fans spilled on to the streets from pubs and clubs. Of 15 Britons

held in Saint-Etienne, only ten were arrested and so far only four have been charged.

According to unofficial figures, 23.7 million watched England's match in Britain - a record for an ITV programme. The audience peaked at 26 million during the penalty shoot-out.

History of defeat, page 23
Magnus Linklater, page 24
Leading article, page 25
Letters, page 25
World Cup, pages 52-54, 56

Henman victory helps to revive sporting spirits

By JOHN GOODBODY
AND DEBORAH COLLCUTT

TIM HENMAN revived the country's sporting spirits yesterday by becoming the first British man to reach the Wimbledon singles semi-final for 25 years.

Henman, the British No 2, who is an avid follower of football and had seen England lose their World Cup quarter-final chance on television, delighted the Centre Court crowd with the ease of his straight sets victory over Petr Korda, the Czech No 3 seed and reigning Australian Open champion. He said his 6-3 6-4 6-2 victory was probably the greatest result of his career.

The last British man to be a singles semi-finalist was Roger Taylor in 1973, when Wimbledon was boycotted by many leading players, whose association wanted a bigger say in the game. Taylor won £2,000 for reaching the last four, while Henman will receive £108,750. The last British champion was Fred Perry in 1936.

Tomorrow Henman will meet Pete Sampras, of the United States, the No 1 seed



Henman: triumphant

and four-times champion, in an attempt to become the first Briton to play in a men's singles final since "Bunny" Austin in 1938.

British triumph, page 56



Trimble elected

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, was elected First Minister yesterday when the Northern Ireland Assembly met for the first time amid acrimonious exchanges. Page 2

Confidence in the economy plunges

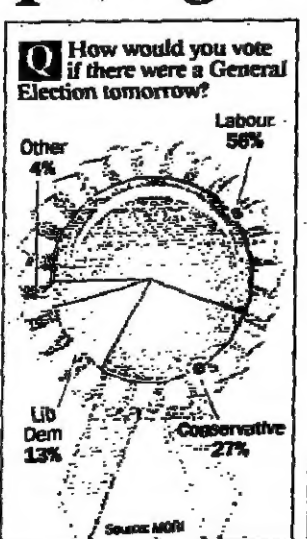
By PETER RIDDELL
AND ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British public has become much gloomier about the outlook for the economy following a sharp deterioration in the past month, according to the latest MORI poll for The Times.

Dissatisfaction with the Government is also rising, but the poll, undertaken last week-end, shows that the Tories and William Hague have not benefited. Labour has maintained its huge poll lead.

Consumer worries were backed up by evidence yesterday showing that manufacturers are beginning to shed jobs at the fastest rate since the last recession.

The MORI economic optimism index, measuring the proportion thinking that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, now stands at minus 19 points, compared with plus one point in late May. This represents a big change compared with the average level of the index since the election. The current figure was last seen in the summer of 1995. Nearly two-fifths of the public (38 per cent) believe



conditions will get worse. Less than a fifth (19 per cent) think they will improve.

This sharp decline follows a further round of increases in interest rates, as well as announcements about redundancies and a generally more pessimistic tone of media comment about the economy. Consumer spending has also come off the boil, while the Halifax house price index today

Peter Riddell, page 12
Joblessness rises, page 30

Just do it, says Nike but teenagers say no thanks

By OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK AND SARAH CUNNINGHAM

NIKE yesterday revealed its first loss for 13 years as American teenagers ditch their trainers for more sophisticated footwear. Nikes, it seems, are no longer cool.

Parents are delighted. The peer pressure that once compelled their children to wear overpriced trainers is now dictating a switch to hiking-style boots.

Sports footwear did not take off as a street fashion until the 1980s, when it was adopted on stage by black American hip hop bands. The craze reached Britain the following year and trainers rapidly became the most popular footwear.

Now teenagers are turning to Timberlands, Hush Puppies or Caterpillars, although the price tags of more than £60 are just as breathtaking.

The unexpected change in tastes has sent Wall Street quaking in its brogues. Sales are plummeting even though Nike shoes are being advertised by Michael Jordan, America's most popular sportsman, and Ronaldo, the Brazilian footballer.

The shoes, which cost £50 or more in the shops, cost only 46p to make in factories in



Once de rigeur, the trainer is being usurped by hiking-style boots



China and £1.19 in Thailand. Human rights campaigners, who have criticised Nike for employing "slave labour", will be delighted at the company's declining fortunes.

Nike has 326 factories in 32 countries, with 450,000 employees in the Far East, many of them in Pakistan, Vietnam and China. By 1991, Nike had become the first sportswear manufacturer to gross more

than \$3 billion in annual sales. Five years later, that figure had more than doubled and last year it was \$9 billion. Now the company is setting aside \$130 million, plunging it \$67 million in the red, to pay for 1,600 redundancies.

Total sales of sports footwear have been falling since reaching a peak at the end of 1995. Philip Armitage, a sociologist, summed it up: "Trainers are now considered stuff by the trendsetters, and they are no longer seen as compulsory wear for the young. A lot of parents will be relieved about that."

The Face magazine says: "Smart shoes are the way to walk this year," while another style magazine, i-D, told its fashion-conscious readers: "Flashy silver trainers are being overlooked in favour of rugged, subtly shaded action shoes."

Traditional shoemakers, such as Britain's family-owned Clark's have found themselves back in fashion, with bands such as The Verve wearing their Wallabee shoes and desert boots also appearing on the feet of pop stars such as Liam and Noel Gallagher of Oasis.



The Lure of Strong Design
From the Tiffany Atlas Collection, stainless steel timepieces. Swiss-made with quartz movement.
Square, £1375. Round, £1300.

TIFFANY & Co.
SINCE 1837

LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET W1 0171-469 2760
HARRODS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE 0171-730 1234

Late substitute made as Tone the Goal is recalled to bench

PHONEY Tony is a dangerous phrase. Yesterday the dream-makers who manage the Blair message and know the danger did a U-turn. Football was dropped. Before lunch it was "Tone the Goal". By Prime Minister's Questions it was the NHS again.

He had been all over the airwaves that morning, adopting his "Diana" voice for solemn communications with the England team. The demeanour was toe-curling, the metaphor unspeakable. "A mountain of courage and a

mohehill of luck," he intoned. Mr Blair, who is presumably no more interested in football than most busy politicians, had plainly been pointed in this direction by his media-manipulators (now called "strategic message coordinators"); but, as often happens with newcomers to a passion, seemed unable to grade his response. By early afternoon Blair must have been warned that he had gone over the top. "Return to base" was the new message. "Cancel football".

And so it happened that by the time we reached questions the small band of government backbenchers who had been recruited and coached to question him (the whole occasion is now choreographed) had been firmly pointed away from last night's match. "No football" was the order.

Nary a mention. And Mr Blair did well. He even managed not to mention the late Princess of Wales, answering a question placed reverentially before him by Lindsay Hoyle (Lab, Chorley) like

some small offering to a Greek god—about Diana, the anniversary of her birthday, and the possibility of legislation on landmines. Blair promised the legislation and steered clear of the birthday. Peter Lilley, standing in for William Hague, asked him to admit he had given the House incorrect information last

week about applications to Scottish universities — and Blair actually admitted it! Unfortunately Mr Lilley wasn't listening and ploughed into his prepared follow-up — "Why won't he answer?" — which Blair just had. Poor Mr Lilley. A mountain of preparation and a molehill of agility. □ Yesterday this sketch re-

ported an MP's suggestion that Anselm Bevan, architect of the NHS 50 years ago, was treated in a private ward during his final illness. Sir Peter Tapsell (C, Louth & Horncastle) said so, though not critically. There was a shout of "lies!" from Labour.

A lady who was there and ought to know has telephoned me. Her account disproves the story yet explains how it arose. Reports that appeared in the press at the time, suggesting Bevan had been treated as a private patient,

were wrong. But he was treated like a private patient. Bevan was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital in London on December 29, 1959, with a terminal illness. His physician was Sir Daniel Davies and he was operated on, under the NHS, by the surgeon Rodney Mingos. Bevan was placed in a three-bed public ward but that was kept free of other patients for the duration of his illness (some weeks). His wife, Jennie Lee, also insisted that the lift be kept free, which (the ward

being the third floor) exasperated those who had to walk. To maintain a measure of anonymity, Bevan was entered under the name "Peter Davies". Flowers were addressed to Peter Davies. A vagrant from nearby Rowton House, also called Peter Davies, was there too. Flowers meant for Bevan were placed around him. When the poor man, who was confused, came round to find himself surrounded by blossoms, he thought he had died and awoken in paradise.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Blair ready to intervene over Orange march

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is being pressed by Northern Ireland's leaders to make an emergency visit today to try to avert a conflagration over the Orange Order's Drumcree parade on Sunday.

Sources close to the Prime Minister said that he stood ready to make yet another direct intervention to prevent the peace process being derailed. His diary could be cleared quickly and he was expected to make a decision this morning.

The pressure on Mr Blair was believed to have come from David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, Seamus Mallon, the SDLP deputy leader and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president.

On the day that the Province's new Assembly met for the first time, sources also disclosed that London, Dublin and Washington were making strenuous top-level efforts to persuade both sides in the Drumcree dispute to agree that a small parade should pass along Portadown's predominantly nationalist Garvaghy Road in the least provocative manner.

To clinch such a deal Mr Trimble could, for the first time, talk directly to the nationalist residents' leaders in his new role as Northern

Ireland's First Minister, probably in the company of Mr Mallon, who was yesterday elected Second Minister.

Mr Trimble said he would "consider what's the best thing for me to do", but was not going to engage in "some sort of ego trip". Mr Mallon vowed to "leave no stone unturned" in the search for a solution, but cautioned that the parties might lack the necessary influence with the marchers and protestors.

The Assembly began life with electric exchanges as hardline Unionists and republicans finally came face to face, and the election of Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon, John Hume, the SDLP's leader and chief architect of the peace process, was expected to become Second Minister, but opted out at the last moment because of his heavy workload.

Mr Trimble has a good relationship with Mr Mallon and the two men are expected to form a formidable partnership as Northern Ireland seeks to put its bloody past behind it.

The Assembly's inaugural meeting produced scenes that were until recently unthinkable as Northern Ireland's political leaders, former terrorists, victims of terrorism and the rest of the 108-strong

body came together in a single chamber.

The Rev Ian Paisley and other hardline Unionists confronted Sinn Féin directly, and there were furious exchanges.

Looking directly at Mr Adams, Mr Paisley spoke of those "murdered by his cohorts, the families that were torn apart, the people who were smashed and turned into vegetables by IRA violence". Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Féin MP, accused Mr Paisley of refusing to attend the peace talks but "trundling into this room now because you're afraid you're going to be left behind".

In attacking Sinn Féin, Mr Paisley and his allies were really attacking Mr Trimble for daring to deal with that party. An attempt to divide the UUP by demanding a commitment Sinn Féin would not be admitted to the Cabinet without IRA disarmament failed, with all 30 UUP members backing their leader. Sinn Féin abstained.

The hardliners' attacks contrasted strongly with the tone of speeches by Mr Trimble, Mr Mallon and other members of what has become a *de facto* alliance between the UUP and the SDLP.

Leading article, page 25



Gerry Adams listens as Ian Paisley speaks at the first meeting of the Assembly

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tories cut jobs and offices to save £3m

Tory chiefs last night agreed to cut spending by £3 million a year and shed up to 50 jobs in an attempt to stave off financial ruin. The most drastic cuts in 40 years were set out in a report drawn up by Archie Norman, the deputy party chairman, who is head of the supermarket chain Asda. They were agreed without dissent by the Shadow Cabinet last night in the absence of William Hague, who is still recovering from ill-health. "We were warned either accept the cuts or face the fact that we will be a spent fighting force forever," one member of the Shadow Cabinet said.

Mr Norman is also restructuring the party political headquarters to try to match the efficiency of the Labour Party. The first jobs will disappear within a week. Regional offices in London, Leeds, Bury, Hinkley, Exeter and Cobham, Surrey, will be closed and party officials will be forced to work from home.

Defeat over Wales Bill

The Government last night suffered its 24th defeat in the House of Lords since coming to power when peers voted by 113 to 94 to ban ministers becoming members of the Welsh assembly. Although the move was a blow to Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, who is hoping to head the assembly, officials insisted the defeat would be overturned when the Government of Wales Bill returns to the Commons. The vote was on a Tory backbench amendment by Lord Crickhowell, a former Welsh Secretary, during the Bill's report stage.

Governors lose powers

The governing body of a comprehensive school was stripped of its powers after a scathing inspectors' report highlighted poor standards of work and behaviour. Herefordshire County Council took control of the budget at Haywood High School, Hereford, and launched an inquiry into claims that children and teachers were verbally and physically abused. The council, which was formed just three months ago, has also suspended the deputy head teacher. The head is on sick leave.

Peace camp eviction

Anti-nuclear campaigners at Britain's oldest peace camp were last night preparing for a long siege after unexpectedly losing their fight against eviction. The campers, who have occupied the narrow grass verge on the A814 opposite Faslane nuclear submarine base on the Clyde for 16 years, now have two weeks to prepare for the arrival of Argyl and Bute Council's bulldozers. Its lawyers went to Paisley Sheriff Court and successfully overturned an earlier court ruling which had blocked the eviction move in April.

Nuclear report 'sensitive'

A damning report on safety standards at the Dounreay nuclear processing plant was not seen by John Battle, the Energy Minister, until after the Government had agreed to take a consignment of radioactive waste from Georgia. Mr Battle told members of the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee that publication of the report had been prevented by the UK Atomic Energy Authority on the grounds that it contained commercially sensitive material about operations at Dounreay.

Runaway coach halted

Schoolchildren escaped with cuts and bruises yesterday when their coach ran out of control on a hill and came to rest with its front wheels hanging over a three-metre drop to the sea. Howard Marsden, 44, the driver, slowed the coach by scraping it along a wall for more than 100 metres. The accident happened at Lythe Bank, near Whitby, North Yorkshire. Emergency workers said that the 43 children, from Huntscliffe comprehensive in Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Redcar, had been saved from serious injury by their seatbelts.

Free peaches at Asda

The Asda supermarket chain is to give away 100,000 small peaches in protest at EU rules which ban them from going on sale after July 1 each year. Asda said that after a poor harvest growers and stores needed to sell as much fruit as possible to meet demand but were hampered by the inflexibility of the law. Stores will be giving away the small peaches to children this Saturday. A spokesman for the EU Commission in London dismissed Asda's protest as a publicity stunt.

Law on electronic exports tightened

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

MINISTERS are planning to prevent information on sensitive military technology being transferred through the Internet, by e-mail or fax, a White Paper on strategic export controls disclosed yesterday.

The new legislation, which is not expected to be introduced for some time because of the weight of pressing parliamentary business, will make it obligatory to have an export licence to transfer documents about sensitive military or dual-use technology to foreign customers, "whether exported physically or in electronic form".

Lord Clinton-Davies of Hackney, the Trade Minister responsible for exports, said yesterday it was "absurd" that the Government could control only the physical transfer of goods and not sensitive transfers by electronic mail. Barbara Roche, a junior Trade and Industry Minister, said: "The clear message is that the

Internet is not a legal-free zone."

Once the legislation is in place, people caught transferring sensitive high technology abroad on the Internet, or by e-mail or fax without a licence will face prosecution, mainly by Customs and Excise.

The White Paper was published in response to the criticisms contained in the report by Sir Richard Scott in 1996, after the arms-to-Iraq inquiry. Although the previous Government issued a consultation paper, the election came before further action was possible.

It is also proposed that a new law be drafted to stop British nationals either at home or abroad from selling prohibited arms or brokering arms deals between foreign countries that are the subject of weapons embargoes.

The White Paper also promises more openness and greater parliamentary scrutiny of arms licences.

Confidence in the economy plunges

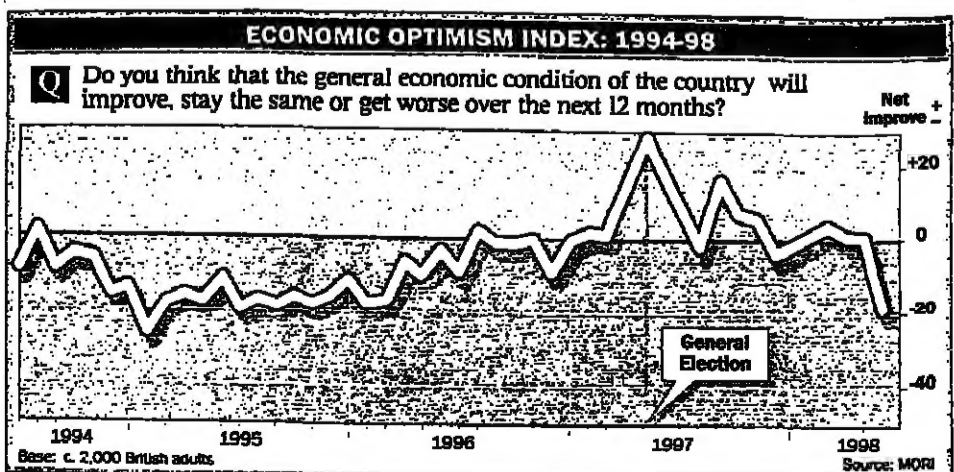
Continued from page 1
confirms a further slowdown in price rises, a sure sign that consumers are losing confidence in the economy.

The Purchasing Managers Survey showed yesterday that manufacturing employment was falling at a rate not seen since 1993.

A separate report from the Institute of Directors yesterday revealed a dramatic slump in business confidence in the last few months, while a survey by Reed Accountancy showed that almost half of finance directors believe the economy will move into recession before the end of the year.

MFI, the furniture company, announced earlier this week that it would lay off 1,500 workers, while Dawson, the textile group, which owns the Fringle brand, said it was shutting two factories with the loss of more than 720 jobs.

Mr Blair reacted angrily in the Commons yesterday to Tory charges about a sharp rise in business failures this



year. Recalling the recession of the early 1990s, he said: "Those were the days of Tory boom and bust. We are not going back to those days."

The public still prefers Labour over the Tories by an unprecedented margin for this stage of the parliament. Labour is now on 56 per cent, up one point since late May, with the Tories one point up at 27

per cent. The Liberal Democrats are one point down at 13 per cent.

There is little consolation for Mr Hague who is recovering at home in Yorkshire from his recent operation.

By a two-to-one margin (46 to 23 per cent), the public are dissatisfied rather than satisfied with his record as Tory leader.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,760 adults at 148 sampling points across Britain between June 25 and 30. Data were weighted to reflect the profile of the population. Voting intentions exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).

Our overdrafts won't make you see red.

No monthly fees on authorised overdrafts.

At Abbey National we don't charge monthly fees on authorised overdrafts or, for that matter, charge you arrangement fees in the first place.

At present our authorised overdraft interest rate is an attractive 13.9% and, if you're switching from another bank, we'll even give you a four month interest free overdraft so there's no danger of upsetting your cashflow.

To apply for an Abbey National Bank Account or to find out more, call us Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.30pm or Saturday 8am to 4pm, or drop into your local branch.

0800 731 7774

Fair Banking



ABBEE NATIONAL

www.abbeynational.co.uk

Because life's complicated enough.

To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Some banking transactions still require a branch visit. The Abbey National Bank Account is subject to status. Overdrafts are only available to Abbey National Bank Account customers, subject to status and not available to persons under the age of 18. Written quotations are available on request. Authorised overdraft APR is 13.9% variable. Overdrafts are repayable at any time in accordance with our Personal Banking Conditions. Abbey National, the Umbrella Couple symbol and Because life's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XJ, United Kingdom.

مكتبة القرآن الكريم

Neighbour denies killing wealthy eccentric

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE neighbour of an eccentric millionaire found dead in his home-filled car denied murdering him yesterday.

Lawrence Dabbs, a retired company director, was at first believed to have committed suicide. But an inquest jury has been asked to consider whether the 74-year-old reclusive was killed by those who could inherit his fortune.

John Hart Jr was set to receive more than £1 million from Mr Dabbs's will, which was changed a month before his death on September 13, 1996. After four hours of questioning by Peter Ashworth, the Derby and South Derbyshire Coroner, Mr Hart angrily denied being a killer.

Asked why he had sold the car in which Mr Dabbs had died, Mr Hart said in a raised voice: "I did everything for Lawrie. I did not kill him, no way, and no way did I help him to commit suicide. If there are any accusations against me, for God's sake say it."

Questioned by Aidan Marron, QC, for Derbyshire police, Mr Hart admitted forging Mr Dabbs's signature on cheques for £5,200 while he was in hospital. "I signed them because Lawrie said he couldn't do it. He told me to practise his signature. He wanted me to sign things for him."

The inquest has been told that, on August 29, doctors described Mr Dabbs a number of drugs, including the painkiller Nitrazepam. He was discharged a day later but within hours had fallen into a deep coma and was readmitted. Twenty-one tablets were missing from the bottle.

The inquest continues.

RE teacher is exposed as Nick the Stripper



Robert Fraser, as his former pupils knew him

Double life ends as ex-pupil sees him in G-string, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A RELIGIOUS education teacher has been forced to resign after moonlighting as a stripper.

Robert Fraser, 46, says he took his clothes off in pubs and clubs because he could not afford to pay his mortgage on his £28,000-a-year teacher's salary. The married father of three daughters was earning an extra £1,000 a week when a former pupil saw him in his G-string and reported him to the school authorities.

Mr Fraser was head of the personal social education department at the 1,100-pupil Oakmead College of Technology in Bournemouth, where he had taught for 20 years. When the school day ended, he became Nick the Stripper, a no-holds-barred performer with a reputation for performing the "Full Monty".

He had been leading his double life for 18 months when staff at the school heard of his stripping act. At first he claimed that he was the victim of mistaken identity but was finally forced to resign after being recognised during a performance at a seaside pub.

Looking tanned and fit, Mr Fraser said yesterday: "There was nothing illegal, fraudulent or dishonest about what I was doing. If I had been a roofer or a bricklayer I am sure it would have been viewed very differently."

"I enjoy doing my act and, in a relatively joyless existence set against the background of teaching, it provided moments of happiness."

He said he had done the honourable thing by resigning but admitted trying to "flannel it" initially. "I accepted there was a moral contradiction in what I was doing and I was never quite able to resolve it."

As well as religious education, he was responsible for tackling issues such as drugs and alcohol awareness.



Fraser as Nick the Stripper in pubs and clubs

healthy lifestyles and vocational education with pupils aged between 11 and 19.

Mr Fraser, who described himself as the "life and soul of the staff room", said: "I had already decided to give up teaching because I was sick of the long hours, the stress and the overwork."

"Things began to go wrong when we moved to a bigger house. I took on a bigger mortgage and that turned out to be a nightmare. I tried various part-time jobs, including working in a garage, but I found myself running faster and faster just to stay in the same place and sometimes ended up doing 16 hours a day."

"It was quite stressful when I first started stripping, because I was so worried about being found out. I would search the room for any faces that I knew while I was doing my act, but in dark, crowded pubs it is difficult to see everyone."

He earns at least £45 for a half-hour session and may perform at three hen parties in an evening. Stripping pays almost twice as much as teaching. Asked if he stripped completely, Mr Fraser replied: "Yes, but I'm not proud of it."

Although income has risen, his naked ambition cost him his marriage. "I didn't tell my wife what I was doing to start with. She thought I was working or going out with friends," he said. "I moved out within 24 hours of her discovering my secret."

Peter Lawrenson, Oakmead's headmaster, who has just taken early retirement, said: "I'm extremely sorry that a man who had been such a good teacher has chosen to act in such a way. But he was pleased prompt action had been taken to protect the reputation of the school and teachers."

Nick the Stripper earned an entirely different kind of reputation in the pubs of Bournemouth. One publican said: "One evening a group of girls got completely carried away and nicked his G-string. He ended up having to leg it stark naked across the car park."

The stripper's agent, Dave Woodbury, said: "Robert is quite an exhibitionist. He has no qualms about doing the Full Monty. He's happy to show the lot. He's the oldest stripper on our books, but he's a good mover and keeps himself in shape."

Jury sent home in Billie-Jo murder trial

By JOANNA BALE

THE jury in the Billie-Jo Jenkins murder trial was sent home for the night after failing to reach a verdict following five hours of deliberation yesterday.

Billie-Jo's foster father, Sion Jenkins, denies bludgeoning her around the head with a heavy metal tent peg as she painted the patio doors of the family home in Hastings, East Sussex in February last year.

Before sending the jury out to consider the verdict yesterday morning, Mr Justice Gage reminded them: "The defence does not have to prove its theory; the prosecution must disprove that and prove its own."

Summarising the prosecution case, he said: "The prosecution say it's ridiculous to suggest that anyone else could have come in and attacked Billie-Jo in that time." He then pointed to the "extraordinary trip" that Mr Jenkins admitted making, to buy white spirit, which included two circuits of a park. The judge said that Mr Jenkins did this "without checking whether he had white spirit or money."

Mr Jenkins was found to have spots of blood on his clothing "consistent with being the assailant". The prosecution, he added, had said rejected defence evidence suggesting that the spots came from a bubble of blood in Billie-Jo's nose which burst as Mr Jenkins tended to her.

Summarising the defence



Billie-Jo: attacked with metal tent peg

case, Mr Justice Gage said that counsel for Mr Jenkins had pointed out that Hastings was "an area where there is much crime". The police, according to the defence, did not investigate the murder properly "from the word go" and "failed to see the significance of blood in Billie-Jo's airways".

Mr Justice Gage said that, according to the defence, "the whole prosecution got off on the wrong foot and stayed there". The defence argued, he said, that you "cannot rule out the possibility that the spots were caused by the exhalation of blood".

The judge also said that the defence had emphasised that there was "no motive and no sufficient evidence" against Mr Jenkins.

The jurors will return this morning when, at their request, they will watch two videos made of Billie-Jo's body and of the murder scene.



Sion Jenkins denies murdering his foster daughter Billie-Jo, the natural daughter of Bill Jenkins, right



Christie 'is Frankenstein of the track'

LINFORD CHRISTIE was described yesterday as an "athletics Frankenstein" by the man he is suing for libel, John McVicar, who alleged in a magazine that Christie took performance-enhancing drugs, told a High Court jury that he believed the sprinter was "a typical athletics Frankenstein — a steroid-enhanced athlete".

The article appeared in *Spiked*, a now-

defunct satirical magazine. Mr McVicar, who has represented himself in the case, said during his final speech: "There is a truth to my article which has stood up to the rigours of this trial." Performance-enhancing drugs were the "cancer of modern track and field athletics", and the testing designed to prevent their misuse was ineffective, he said.

Patrick Moloney, QC, counsel for

Christie, said that Mr McVicar had produced no proof for his allegations. His reasons for suspecting that the athlete took performance-enhancing drugs were nonsense, self-contradictory or flimsy.

Christie is also suing the printers of *Spiked*, Wiltshire (Bristol) Ltd, and the distributors, Johnsons News Ltd and WH Smith Ltd. The case continues.

How early would you like to pay off your mortgage?

- (a) When Jeremy Beadle is voted Britain's most popular man?
 - (b) When leg warmers come back into fashion?
 - (c) As soon as possible?
- If you like the sound of (c) and you have, or are about to buy a home with a mortgage of at least £25,000, then give us a call on 08456 00 00 01 to find out if we're right for you. The Virgin One account. It's no small change.
- The Virgin One account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

one account

08456 00 00 01

direct

Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. You can phone for further information or a written quotation at any time. You must be aged 18 or over. Life insurance is required. For your security all calls are recorded and monitored. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd. Discovery House, Whitling Rd, Norwich, NR4 6EJ.

Widow inherits from husband she killed

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A WOMAN convicted of killing her violent husband was told yesterday that she could inherit his wealth. Maria McDonald, 44, is expected to receive more than £100,000, including his half-share of their home, proceeds of his pension, life assurance policies and shares.

Mrs McDonald was found guilty of culpable homicide at the High Court in Edinburgh in November after she repeatedly stabbed her 49-year-old husband, Paul, at their cottage in Tarbet, near Loch Lomond, in April last year. She had suffered years of drunken, violent abuse during the 13-year marriage and often had black eyes or clumps of hair missing. At her trial she told the court that she must have snapped, although she could not remember as she suffered from amnesia over the killing.

In view of the "unusual" circumstances, the judge decided not to jail her and put her on probation for two years. Yesterday her lawyers went to the Court of Session and obtained his consent to Mrs McDonald inheriting her husband's assets.

Her lawyers argued that in view of the circumstances, the forfeiture rule, which would normally prevent her as a convict from benefiting from the crime, should be modified. Lord Cowie agreed to grant the order, which was not opposed.

Without the court order, the assets would have passed to Mr McDonald's mother.

Mary Coyle, and his half-brother, David Jordan.

Mrs McDonald's has become one of a handful of cases in Scotland where an order has been made under the Forfeiture Act, allowing people to inherit in such circumstances. The first successful case in 1986 also involved a woman who had been placed on probation for killing her brutal husband.

Mrs McDonald, who was originally from Austria, moved to Scotland after marrying in 1984. Her husband worked on oil rigs as a technician and she opened a seasonal bed and breakfast guest house at their village home.

Their marriage ran into trouble and she was frequently forced to escape through a window and would end up sleeping in the garden shed, dog kennel or bushes for her own safety. An ambulance was called out for her five times. Once, police were called to the couple's home and found her hiding in the bushes.

Her husband's drinking eventually led to his dismissal and he returned to Tarbet, where he made his wife's life a "living hell", according to friends. When she killed him, she was said to be in a depressed state.

McDonald was originally charged with murder but the Crown accepted her admission to the reduced charge of culpable homicide after accepting that she had acted under provocation.

SHE'S GOT EVERYTHING.
NOW WATCH HER THROW IT AWAY.

SAMANTHA JANUS
IMOGEN'S
FACE

TENIGHT 9-00 PM
AN ITV DRAMA PREMIERE
ITV

www.itv.co.uk

direct-
a
: ac-
vas
a
to the
milla
rong.
o yet
n the
l the
at his
fig.
s Oc-
to
com-
was
as
lonat
litt
ound-
stret-
adrid-
has
oper-
this
stral
of a
oving
begin-
ed by
rents.
been
1. The
their
using
a that
at air.

SON



UCE
S ON
LIDS,
USIC,
WIND
ONE
DON
976
Street,
Centre,
3909
in price.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

Success requires a meeting of the minds. Which is why we just brought 140,000 of them together.

www.pwcglobal.com

© 1998 PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. PricewaterhouseCoopers refers to the member firms of the worldwide PricewaterhouseCoopers organization.

مكتبة الأصيل

Golden boy Owen has the world at his feet

By Stephen Farrell, Daniel McGrory and Lin Jenkins

MICHAEL OWEN was told last night that he could name his price as sponsors queued up to sign Britain's most coveted sporting hero.

While the 18-year-old with the squeaky-clean image was measuring his future in millions, David Beckham was counting the cost of his petulance. Marketing experts predict that Owen can make £10 million in endorsements in the next year.

Even before Concorde brought the England team home, faxes were flying to his agent, Tony Stephens, from soft-drink firms, breakfast cereal makers, car manufacturers and fashion houses. All of them said Owen could write his own cheque.

Mr Stephens was also busy engaged on a damage-limitation exercise on behalf of another of his clients — Beckham. The 23-year-old Manchester United midfielder, who is engaged to the Spice Girl Victoria Adams, has just been named as Britain's top-earning player, estimated to be worth £8.1 million a year.

His deals with Adidas and Brylcreem are safe. Adidas, with whom he has a £3.5 million deal until 2004, said: "We do not condone David Beckham's reaction to the late challenge and no doubt he will regret what has happened. However, Beckham is an outstanding player. We will continue to support him."

Brylcreem, which pays him £1 million a year, said: "He is and will continue to be our Brylcreem Boy. We don't want to comment on his performance on the field."

Dave Davies, an agent for most of the England 1996 World Cup winners, said last night: "Beckham was a silly

boy because he had it all, the looks, the talent and the girlfriend. Sponsors will wonder about his international prospects, but clever advertisers may capitalise on the bad boy image."

Loyal fans yesterday clamoured to buy £53.25 Manchester United shirts bearing his name. A spokesman explained this was "a show of solidarity".

Beckham's parents last night stood by their son. His mother, Sandra, said: "He hasn't let us down, we are very proud of him." Alongside her at the door of the family's terraced house in Chingford, northeast London, his father Ted said he didn't deserve to be sent off, adding: "David was so choked, he couldn't speak."

Owen still lives in the family home near Chester, with his parents, Jeanette and Terry, two brothers and two sisters, though he has bought a plot of land a mile away. Mrs Owen said: "We were on the edge of our seats. It was a very proud moment when I saw him score and he turned and smiled."

Rachel Anderson, a football agent, said: "For advertisers he is too good to be true — handsome, well-mannered, loyal to his schoolgirl sweetheart and a brilliant player. He can easily earn £10 million this year, but should take his time and wait for the most lucrative and prestigious deals."

The biggest marketing conundrum of all is whether Liverpool will sell him. A club spokesman said tersely: "No comment."

Dignity in defeat, page 23
Leading article, page 25
World Cup, pages 52-54, 56



Michael Owen, the sponsors' new idol, can name his price, while David Beckham's advertising value has suffered an overnight slump



Adidas gives red card to Beckham ads

By Stephen Farrell

ADIDAS yesterday stopped a multi-million-pound television campaign starring David Beckham as he became its third player to be sent off in the World Cup.

For weeks Beckham's face has stared out from posters under the unfortunate slogan, "Historians, it is spelt B-E-C-K-H-A-M", while television has shown two advertisements in which he takes a free kick and is shown growing from a young boy into a "mature" player.

Last night an Adidas spokesman confirmed that both television advertisements had "run their course", but said that they were being withdrawn because of the team's early exit. "They were only scheduled to run as long as England were in the tournament. It is pointless having the ads on British television while England are no longer playing."

The German sportswear giant has

MICHAEL OWEN
Age: 18 Caps: 9
Salary: £15,000 a week, new 5-year contract at Liverpool. Eighteen months ago was earning £12,000 a year, now thought to be £750,000 a year.
Agent: Tony Stephens
Endorsements: Umbro - 8-year deal worth £5m, £1m bonus for being England's joint leading scorer in World Cup.
Threat watches - estimated £100,000 a year.
Estimated worth: £2.75m a year.
Girlfriend: Louise Bonsall (18).
Houses: Lives with mother, father, brothers and two sisters in Hawarden, Cheshire. Has bought plot of land 1 mile away on which to build a house.
Car: Golf GTI.

had an unfortunate World Cup, for which it paid £20 million to be an official sponsor. Its other star players were the Holland and AC Milan striker Patrick Kluivert, who was sent off for elbowing a Belgian defender;

DAVID BECKHAM
Age: 23 Caps: 18
Salary: Estimated between £22,000 to £25,000 at Manchester United, with bonuses thought to be worth £1.25m a year. Trying to renegotiate basic salary.
Agent: Tony Stephens
Endorsements: Adidas - £500,000 a year. Contract worth £3.5m until 2004.
Brylcreem - £1m a year.
Pepsi - £200,000 a year.
Estimated worth: £8.1m a year.
Girlfriend: Victoria Adams (Spice Spice).
Houses: Temporary £300,000 flat in Alderley Edge, Cheshire. With £40,000 Harrods kitchen.
Car: Porsche Carrera 911 Turbo R reg. £85,000, metallic blue.

the France and Juventus midfielder Zinedine Zidane, shown the red card for stamping on a Saudi player; and the Italy and Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero, who was injured before the World Cup, lost his regular

place in the starting line-up and has so far failed to score a goal.

All appear in the stylish and hugely expensive television campaign in which Kluivert is shown running away from a tidal wave and Zidane stares moodily at the futuristic Stade de France. All are promoting the £120 Predator Accelerator boot, which is said to allow its wearer to strike the ball — and presumably opposition player — with improved accuracy.

The experience echoes the "Curse of Nike" during the Barcelona 1992 Olympics, when the world's largest sportswear firm backed the Ukrainian pole-vaulter Sergei Bubka, American 200 metres runner Michael Johnson and Algeria's middle-distance runner Noureddine Morceli for gold. All failed dismally in their individual events.

Adidas has had more success in its choice of teams in France 98, which include Germany and France, not to mention Argentina.

IN BRIEF

Violent end to victory celebrations

More than 40 people were hurt as celebrations in Buenos Aires yesterday ended with fans fighting, looting shops and clashing with police (Gabriella Giamini writes). Police had to fire tear gas and charge the crowd around the capital's central obelisk, where tens of thousands had watched the game on giant screens.

Three people were killed and eight injured when their car was crushed by a train after it was trapped on a railway crossing by celebrating fans who refused to move.

100 arrests after pubs turn out

There were more than 100 arrests around the country as supporters left pubs and clubs. In some towns the disorder was the most serious since the tournament began. More than 40 people were arrested for public order and criminal damage offences in the West Midlands, and there were more than 35 arrests for drunk and disorderly behaviour in Sussex.

Record number watched on TV

Nearly 24 million people watched the game on television, setting a new record for a single sport programme. The audience peaked at 26 million during the penalty shoot-out, ITV said. At 23.7 million, the match is the third most popular British programme and ITV's most successful broadcast. The figures do not include the thousands who watched in pubs.

FA headquarters damaged by fire

A fire broke out at the Football Association's headquarters at Lancaster Gate, Central London, yesterday, causing smoke damage to most of the ground and first floors. All 50 staff escaped injury and trophies, including a replica of the World Cup won in 1966, were undamaged.

Wake up refreshed and BANISH THOSE MORNING ACHES & PAINS!

5 YEAR NO QUIBBLE GUARANTEE

AN ADJUSTAMATIC BED WILL GIVE YOU THE BEST REST OF YOUR LIFE!

Would you like to wake up feeling refreshed and ready for the day ahead?

If so, the Adjustamatic bed is the answer to your dreams. The reason is simple. The Adjustamatic fully adjustable bed will mould itself perfectly to your body shape. No ordinary bed, no matter how good it is can do this. Infinitely adjustable at the touch of a button, this unique bed will ensure that the

pressure points at the neck, shoulders and hips are taken away. The result is that your body weight is evenly distributed, reducing your nightly tossing and turning, and giving you a deeper, fuller more beneficial sleep. So you will wake up feeling refreshed from the best night's sleep you've ever had.

IF YOU SUFFER FROM A MEDICAL COMPLAINT SUCH AS:-

- Arthritic and Rheumatic Pain
- High and Low Back Pains
- Poor Circulation and Lack of Mobility
- Swollen Legs
- Fluid Retention (Oedema)
- Tight Shoulders
- Stiff Neck
- Hipster Hernia
- Respiratory Problems
- Stress and Tension
- Night Cramps

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL OPINION CONFIRMS THE ADJUSTAMATIC BED CAN PROVIDE POSITIONAL RELIEF

Yours FREE! The Secrets of a Good Night's Sleep

Call NOW for more information, and to get our FREE booklet 'The Secrets of a Good Night's Sleep'. **ADJUSTAMATIC** No.1 IN ADJUSTABLE BEDS

CALL NOW LINES OPEN 24HRS. 7 DAYS A WEEK **0800 805000** ASK FOR EXTENSION 1134

AN ADJUSTAMATIC BED WILL ADJUST TO THE PRECISE POSITION TO SUIT THE WAY YOU SLEEP, ENSURING THE BEST NIGHT'S SLEEP YOU'VE EVER HAD!



SAVE THE CHILDREN



A Save the Children plane delivering supplies in southern Sudan.

Photo: Neil Cooper

SUDAN CHILDREN'S APPEAL

Today in Sudan, the lives of an estimated 1.2 million people are at immediate risk from starvation. Children are suffering terribly. Right now, food is the priority. Save the Children is urging the international community to support the UN in delivering the food that is needed now to save lives.

We have worked alongside the resourceful people of Sudan through many tough times in the past, but civil war and drought mean that the lives of many children depend, for now, on outside help.

Save the Children staff are working round the clock providing immediate assistance and planning ahead for the future, when the present chronic food needs have been met. We are:

- supplying high energy biscuits for children
- distributing fishing equipment, seeds, tools and other basic survival items
- training local mobile teams to create and maintain new water sources

- providing experts to the UN World Food Programme to plan how to get the food to those who need it most
- working closely with other charities active in the region to assist in the delivery of food aid and essential relief items.

In Sudan. But meanwhile, we're doing all we can.

We believe that the children of Sudan have the right to a childhood, as much as any child of any nation.

Whatever you can send will help...

Save the Children Registered Charity No. 233890

Please give what you can for Sudan's children

You can make a credit card donation at any time by telephoning 0171 701 0894

Please accept my gift of: ☐ £25 ☐ £55 ☐ £50 ☐ £250 ☐ Other £

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) Address

Postcode

I enclose: ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Postal Order ☐ Giro No. 5173000 ☐ CAV

OR Please charge my: (Please make Cheques and Postal Orders payable to Save the Children)

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diners Club ☐ CAV ☐ Switch Issue No.

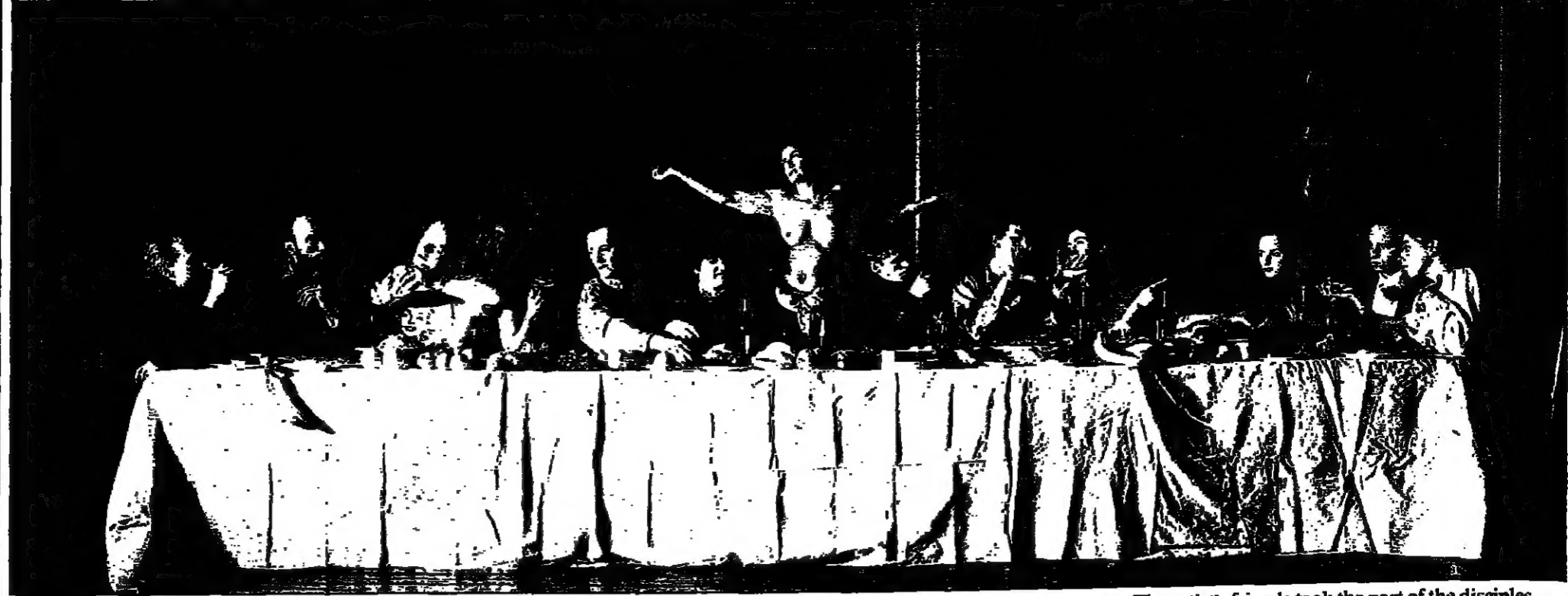
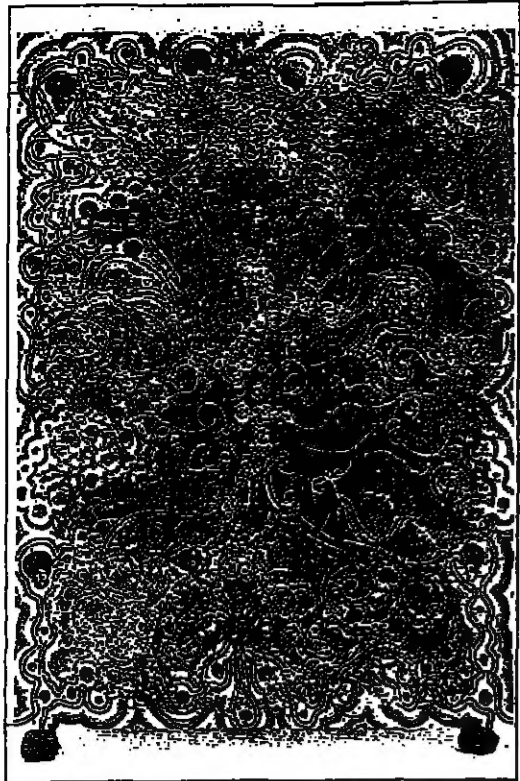
Credit Card Number/Switch Number:

Signature Card Expiry Date:

(Credit cards only) Please complete this coupon and return to: Save the Children, Dept. 8050528, FREEPOST, LONDON SE5 8BR

Thank you

HUGE S ON ARDS, MUSIC, WIND ONE DON 976 f Street, Centre, 3909 to press



Ofili's *Afrodizzia*, left, and Taylor-Wood's photographic interpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*, which has been condemned for replacing Christ with a topless woman. The artist's friends took the part of the disciples

Turner shortlist shows how modern art is dung

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN ARTIST who applies elephant dung from London Zoo to his canvases and cut-outs from pornographic magazines was yesterday shortlisted for the Turner Prize.

Like the Turner Prize itself, which has caused offence with prize-winning works such as Damien Hirst's dead animals in formaldehyde, Chris Ofili is no stranger to controversy.

Nor is Sam Taylor-Wood, another of the four shortlisted artists: she has outraged religious groups by representing Christ as a topless woman in a photograph of her friends imitating Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*. The £20,000

prize, organised by the Tate Gallery, is awarded to a British artist under 50 for an outstanding exhibition in the past year. Also shortlisted from 500 entries were Tania Dean, whose chalk on blackboard abstracts suggest stormy seascapes, and Cathy de Monchaux, whose use of metal intertwined with pink suede is said to be erotic.

Ofili and Taylor-Wood were featured in last summer's Sensation show at the Royal Academy of Arts and are collected by Charles Saatchi, the country's foremost supporter of contemporary art.

The Tate hailed the final four as

exciting talents. But David Lee, Editor of *Art Review*, was disappointed with the choice. "It's just the usual predictable crew," he said. He dismissed Ofili's use of dung as a gimmick: "If he was just a painter, you wouldn't look twice."

Ofili, 29, who was born in Manchester to a Nigerian family, studied at the Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art. He was inspired to use dung after a visit to Zimbabwe, and draws on a wide range of other cultural references, including 1970s comics, contemporary black music and African textiles.

One critic, reviewing his recent



Ofili and Taylor-Wood

show at Southampton City Art Gallery, said his work called *Afrodizia* embodied fantasy and fear: "The supposed superior potency of the black man is symbolised by a collection of out-

size phalluses outlined in black dots on a white ground. Or they seem to be dots. But when you look really closely, you see that each dot is actually a tiny head sporting huge Afro hair." Other works by Ofili include *Pimpin ain't Easy*, with magazine cuttings of women with their legs open.

Marina Warner, the author and critic who is one of the Turner judges, said that Ofili's material was "difficult", but applauded his daring: "He's interested in the sacred and profane." The artist himself said: "My project is not a PC project... It allows you to laugh about issues that are potentially serious."

Taylor-Wood, 31, a graduate of

Goldsmiths' College, southeast London, stages scenes to convey "various states of being" and has become known for provocative creations that use bolts, belts and fetishistic gear. The Tate hailed *Wrecked*, her interpretation of Leonardo's *Last Supper*, as enigmatic.

De Monchaux, 37, a graduate of Camberwell and Goldsmiths, uses folded and stuffed suede, wall-mounted on metal frames, to hint at parts of the body. The Tate said: "These objects speak unmistakably of sexuality in all its contrasting manifestations. They imply both softness and rigidity, gentleness and bondage."

Warner said of the work: "It's possibly dangerous and spiky and

even cruel or perverse. It's an exploration of desire and pleasure."

Dean, 32, who trained at Falmouth and the Slade, produces a wide range of work. Her blackboard paintings are seen as storyboards, combining images with the odd word or phrase implying a narrative. For *Disappearing at Sea*, she filmed the changing light inside a Berwickshire lighthouse in videos lasting four and 14 minutes.

The judges, who include Neil Tennant of the pop group Pet Shop Boys, will announce the winner on December 1. The four artists will feature in an exhibition at the Tate from October 28 to January 10. Last year, the exhibition attracted a record 85,000 visitors.

The Link

LOWEST EVER PRICE

DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE WITH ANSWERPHONE

- Superior sound quality
- Increased call security
- The option to add additional handsets with no extra telephone wiring
- A range of up to 300 metres
- PLUS Caller display lets you see the telephone number of the caller before you decide to take the call (subject to BT subscription)

PHILIPS DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE WITH BUILT-IN ANSWERING MACHINE

- Caller display feature subject to BT subscription
- 6 minutes digital recording on answering machine
- Model: ONIS 6411

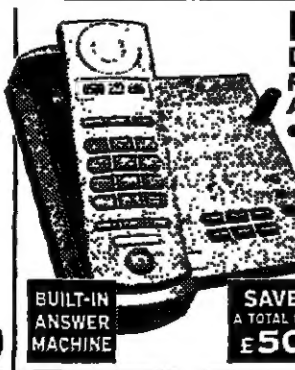
£149.99



SAMSUNG DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE

- Add up to 5 additional handsets
- 10 number memory for storing your most called numbers
- 10 hours talktime/55 hours standby
- Model: SPR 5100

£99.99



BT DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE WITH ANSWERING MACHINE

- 12 minutes digital recording time
- Add up to 5 additional handsets
- Remote access
- Model: DIVERSE 1015
- Was £229.99
- In-store Price £199.99

VOUCHER PRICE £179.99



ALCATEL DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE WITH CALLER DISPLAY

- Caller display feature (subject to BT subscription)
- Model: ALTISET COMFORT

£149.99

CORDLESS TELEPHONES FROM ONLY £34.99



SOUTHWESTERN BELL CORDLESS PHONE

- Paging facility from base to handset
- 10 memories for storing your most called numbers
- 8 channel selection
- Model: FF777
- In-store Price £49.99

VOUCHER PRICE £39.99



BT CORDLESS PHONE

- 8 self-selecting frequency channels for clearer call reception
- 10 number memory for your most used numbers
- Model: FREESTYLE 80
- Was £58.99

SAVE £4 £54.99

BETACOM CORDLESS PHONE

- Paging facility • Last number redial
- LED charge indicator
- Model: DISCOVERY
- Was £39.99

SAVE £5 £34.99

SOUTHWESTERN BELL CORDLESS PHONE WITH BUILT-IN ANSWERING MACHINE

- Pick up your messages from any phone
- Model: FF880
- Was £69.99

SAVE £10 £59.99

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

The Link

Phone Show 98
IN-STORE NOW!

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE OF TELEPHONES
OVER 105 MODELS IN-STORE

EXPERT ADVICE

Our expert staff are specially trained in all communication products including Cernet, Sine 2 One and Gsmnet networks. We will be happy to help you make the choice that's right for you.

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES

If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.

132 STORES NATIONWIDE
FREEPHONE 0500 222 666
For your nearest store or to order direct

PLUS FREE

MOBILE CHOICE MAGAZINE
AVAILABLE IN-STORE NOW!

Virgin rail lines top list of passenger complaints

By RICHARD DUCE

TWO rail lines operated by Richard Branson's Virgin Group top a league table of passenger complaints published yesterday. The 25 rail operators attracted almost a million complaints over the past year.

This equals 115 complaints for every 100,000 journeys made. But this first report from John Swift, QC, the Rail Regulator, adds that, as only 19 per cent of passengers say they would complain, "the real level of customer dissatisfaction with train operators' services may thus be much higher".

Virgin West Coast received almost seven times the average figure and Virgin Cross-Country about six times. Between them they accounted for almost 200,000 of the complaints to the 25 train companies in the 12 months ending March 1998 - 650,000 in writing and 310,000 by

telephone. Mr Swift said that the figures were not aimed at shaming companies. They were meant to show that some companies had better systems for dealing with complaints than others.

Virgin operates InterCity lines, where passengers are more likely to complain than regular commuters, to get compensation for late or cancelled trains. While the Virgin West Coast line received 796 complaints per 100,000 journeys and the Island Line only ten, the former carried more than 14 million passengers, compared to the Isle of Wight company, which recorded 703,000 journeys.

Mr Swift said that he expected complaints to rise as companies accepted that reacting to problems led to better services. It was hoped that eventually complaints would fall. The right to complain was not a "whingers' charter", he

said. "Passengers have a right to expect excellent service."

He recommended that train operators improve their methods of recording and answering complaints, especially those by telephone. They also needed to deal with complaints more quickly.

Sixty per cent of complaints were about the train services themselves, including lateness and cancellations. Other common irritations centred on fares, information and staff conduct.

Virgin said: "We believe that the use of the well-known Virgin brand has raised customer expectations and made people more likely to write, since they believe their comments will be acted upon. Despite all this, we are still receiving letters from fewer than 1 per cent of our customers."

Letters, page 25

Paula Yates tried to kill herself like Hutchence

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

PAULA YATES was recovering in a private clinic yesterday after trying to commit suicide.

The television presenter, still grieving for Michael Hutchence, her lover who hanged himself in a hotel room in Sydney last November, tried to take her own life in the same way. Miss Yates, 38, was found barely conscious, hanging from a noose on her bedroom door on Tuesday morning by Belinda Brewin, a close friend.

She was later admitted to the Priory Clinic, in Roehampton, southwest London, where she was treated two months ago for a nervous breakdown. A day earlier, she had returned from Sri Lanka, where she had been filming for a BBC holiday programme. Yesterday Linda Plant, 54, her half-sister, said: "We are very worried and very distressed about her. She needs the best possible care and attention."

Miss Yates has been beset by troubles since divorcing Bob Geldof, 43, the former Boomtown Rats singer. They have been fighting for custody of their three daughters, Fifi Trixibelle, 15, Peaches, 9, and Phoe, 7, who are living with Geldof.

She is convinced that Hutchence, 37, the father of her daughter Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, died as a result of an accident. She is also involved in a battle over the INXS singer's £14.4 million inheritance, with Patricia Glassop, his mother, and Tina, his step-sister.

New low cost motor insurance.

How much could you save?



CALL NOW
0800 670 620

Motor Insurance **DIRECT**

ABBAY NATIONAL
Because life's complicated enough.

Lives are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor all calls. Abbey National, the Umbrella Group symbol and because life's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Abbey National General Insurance Services Ltd, Registered Office, 215-220 Baker Street, London NW1 6LL. Registered in England. Registered number 3017082.

مكتبة الأمل

We wish them every success.

Masahiko Abe
 Zehra Abedi
 Valerie Adamson
 Sandeep Agarwal
 Adriana Alvarez
 Simon Andrews
 Simoni Angelides
 Kate Anstruther
 Javid Arain
 Melissa Bacani
 Sanjay Bailur
 Sam Baker
 Michael Ballabio Longoni
 Marc Barone
 Ove Bergkvist
 Philippe Bernard
 Sean Black
 Stephen Braddock
 Brit Brendahl
 Nicholas Brooke
 Gerardo Broussi
 Martin Buck
 Bernard Buisson
 Adam Burgess
 Lee Burnell
 Kristin Buzzn
 Jorge Cabrera
 Yaviv Caspi
 Hing Cheung Chan
 Penelope Chiu
 Edward Chandler
 Weimin Chen
 Sridhar Chowdary
 Christine Churchill
 Michael Clancy
 Wally Clement
 David Curley
 Natalie Da Gama Rose
 Craig Davison
 Archie De Costa
 Martin Doherty
 Richard Downs
 Philippe Dufour
 Adrian Dyball
 Craig Epton
 Christopher Ehinger
 Nader Elm
 Magnus Elowson
 Felipe Errazuriz
 Grace Fan Hong
 Rashad Faraj
 Amy Fishel
 Stephan Fligel
 Nicholas Fortune
 Roderick Gadsby
 Ivan Gallegos
 Anup Gang
 Jose Manuel Garnica Meza
 Nadine Garrido
 Andrew Gastaldello
 Paul Goddard
 Joseph Gordon
 John Gorman
 Greg Gosling
 Arkady Granik
 Nicolas Grant
 Alessandro Grimaldi

Joel Groen
Eddy Gryllhus
Ajay Gupta
Nataraj Gupta
Sahita Gupta
Tina Haida
Paul Namadeh
Meena Haas
Jumli Hasagawa
Toby Hawkes
Wanda Hellevang
Mark Herrmann
Susan Hindle
Elisabeth Hoffman
Ingrid Hollands
Peter Huang
Jay Humphrey
Darwadi Hussain
Rebecca Ip
Abbas Jafarian
Jumoke Jagun
Roma Jain
Jeffrey Jones
Milo Jones
Alan Jowell
Hanif Kanjer
Yuka Katsuki
Bernhard Karres
Adnan Khan
Zayn Khan
Jean-Claude Khoury
Stephen King
Muuno Kivolahti
Michael Klein
Sebastian Krummel
Faik Kurumoglu
Ricky Kurzman
Darren Lad
Tim Larsson
Jeremy Larsson
Calvin Lau
Charles Le Rougebois
Burn Sin Lee
Don Lee
Sungsoo Lee
Stéphanie Legaré
Panaagiotis Lekkas
Alex Levintan
Alice Lewthwaite-Page
Sim Cheng Liew
Jean Low
Lisa Lubbe
Pascal Luciani
Sarah Mackey
Norihide Maeda
Marcos Magalhães
Celso Magri
Sreedhar Mahankali

Dexter Maitland
Gavin Maitland
Graham Mannion
Felipe Maristany
Eduardo Martinez Gonzalez
Richard Matthews
Martin McDermott
Chris Metcalfe
Oliver Morley
Jamie Morris
Karim Mousavizadeh
Gary Narwsky
Phillip Neillinger
Rod Nichol
Marc Nicholson
Joan Niebauer
Michael O'Brien
Michael O'Meara
Kathemont O'Shea
Heaton Orlowski
Ilyad Omar
Lizz Overe
Jack Owen
Cesar Pacion
David Parkes
Raja Patel
Craigie Perry
Srinivas Raghunathan
Marina Pappas
Andrew Paschall
Sophia Perle
Expedito Perez
Hosni Rahmehdori
Jonathan Ramsay
Randall Reese
Andrew Reiche
John Reinhardt
Gregory Reiter
Janis Reinhardt Reinhardt
Fiona Roberts
Wolfgang Roden
Rodrigo Santos
Marcelo Saphar
Andreas Schaefer
Bernhard Scheer
Jeffrey Schmitt
Keith Seaman
Alexander Selman
Gilbert Shaw
Chris Sheepshanks
Courtney Sheets

Sergei Sheshouk
Nisha Shukov
Christine Shurrock
Robert Siegmund
Sriram Sivaraman
Lucinda Smith
Patricia Solomon Ikala
Pasquale Spodi
Bernad Spitz
Timothy Stubbs
Takayuki Sugata
Ashvin Suri
Hisako Takada
Sander Tãler
Law Tanseng
Hollin Tehrani
Edgar Teo
Harshini Tejpal
Richard Thewissen
Bill Thomas
David Thompson
Robert Thompson
Matthew Toker
Tyronne Tostant
Sebastian Vaidya
Felix van Camp
Mark van Doorn
William van der
Meulen
Wang Wang
Nandini Warghane
Sunder Warghane
Gregory Vukobrat
Oray Walker
Peter Wanani
Simon Williams
Drew Williams
Sandy Winkler
Anders Wolf
Nandini Wozniak
Yong Xue
Koryn Young
Christina Yu
Leoy Yue
David Zaitsev
Dimitry Zinov

EXECUTIVE MBA

Saleem Ahmed
 Ashley Almanza
 Cathy Bailie
 Penny Barfoot
 Asif Bhatia
 Udo Birkenr
 Richard Boulton
 John Brosnan
 David Bruce
 Elizabeth Butloagh
 Peter Burgess
 Emanuele Chiarini
 Kevin Chidwick
 Edward Clayton
 Glenda Crawford
 Jay Dabson
 Richard Davey
 David Davies
 Constantine Efstathiopoulos
 Helen Fuller
 Kevin Garsner
 John Gira
 Robert Goffman
 Jennifer Greenwood
 Paul Griffin
 Volker Hart
 Carolyn Haworth
 Christopher Gilbert
 Gerard Hume
 Peter Ingham
 James Joseph
 Nicholas Keenan
 Barry Kane
 Suzanne Kealey
 Sigm Kibbuhl
 Gareth Kyball
 James Leo
 Martin Miles-Wentz
 Christina Moad
 John Mahony
 Margaret Mitchell
 Michael Moller
 Graham Murgatroyd
 James Murray-Rust
 Marie-Louise Neal
 Jennifer Neuber
 Bryan Newton
 Marlene Noe
 Roger O'Connor
 Ivan O'Dea
 Rayl Orr
 Robert Palmer
 Gertrude Pannier
 Andrew Paisley
 Helen Fox-Penner
 Satoshi Pili
 Brian Potter
 Michael Pridem
 Jason Riddinger
 Chris Reade
 Stuart Robinson
 Michael Sabatier
 Saba Shankat
 Anita Tadayon
 Jane White
 Barrie Young
 Denise Zucker

**MASTERS IN
FINANCE**

Babette Abella
Femi Adeyemo
Nesrat Awwar
Roger Arnold
Alex Au
Monu Au
Mona Aziz
Charles Bain
David Baker
Rod Banchelor
Martin Belsisi
Nigel Berger
Kris Bhatnagarjee
Maitry Bhodan
Sally Blackhall
Patrick Black
Laurie Boeshart
Tim Brady
Andrew Capon
Leo Castello
Mark Chikozas
Andrew Chis
Robert Cook
Chris Conway
Hela Damani
Kerard Dashi
Jami Davison
Dennis Davies
Ricardo de Sardo
Mark Dickinson
Andre Dikoussan
James Dooly
Liz Doscoe
Kevin Edesley
Rick Flynn
Michael Foster
Martin Frischknecht
Madine Fuchs
Jean Garat
David Garret
Justin Gardner
Tom Gates
John Geyer
Steven Hoffman
David Housley
Frank
Sami Houtan
Helen Huxley
Fahim Ibrahim
James Hirst
John Houlder
John Hubbard
Gop Hudson
Simon Irish
Katyra Janssen
Lara Jirata
Jan Johansson
Parakh Jotwani
Rishi Kamarrudin
Tamas Karai
Kressimir Kavev
Ruslan Khasidulin
Farin Khana
Masouke Nizami
Mark Kimtze
Alan Larkin
Pablo Larrain

Paul Lewitt
Franck Lin
Angela Lo
Dana Love
Ian MacGregor
Franco Maranesi
Frederic Marguerre
Nasser Massoud
Nobuhiko Masuro
Yannick Mathien
Tom Medlett
Henrique Menezes
Andrea Merzaghi
Morgan Mothers
Marcel Müller
Aziz Musakhanov
Aurekhit Nguyen
Sebastian Nokes
Kjell Nordlander
Rana Nouri-Khalilchi
David Nussbaum
Mitsubaka Ozaki
Manos Papachristodoulos
Graham Parsons
Eli Piskoulas
Pedro Plameiro
Louis Plowies-Wardlaw
Igor Potapov
Jacek Prochnicki
Elias Rajala
Cari Rukawszczyk
Rajaram Rao
Fajjar Rashad
Antoniello Ricci
Andreas Ritzl
Gaudio Rizzuto
David Roberts
María Rodríguez
María Rodríguez Olive
Vahagn Rosnatt
Brian Schwiager
Sergio Sardon Perez Arce
Robert Skarritt
Neil Sheppard
Adam Sheridan
Anshu Shrivastava
Ludwig Stjorenko
David Stowery
Rasmus Sun
Vee Cheng Tan
Nikhil Thorvattaras
Raja Uthman
Jörg Utzner
Steve Van der Stichele
Marcus Vaughan
Vladimir Vovdin
Maurizio Viani
Tina Whitehouse
Petr Wibberley
Richard Wood
Jabang Yang
Xin Zhou

**SLOAN FELLOWSHIP
MASTERS**

MASTERS

Samir Ahmed
Michael Almond
Michael Anderson
Nicholas Antoniou
Anjita Bar-Am
Siamak Bashi
Joël Cadier
Antonio Cardenas Valera
Rosemary Carleton
Pierre Chaix
Flemming Børk Christensen
Pierpaolo Coda
Deborah Davis
Paulo de Tarsó Machado
Pieter Droppert
Oliver Everett
Mary Gadams
Kirsten Gibbs
Stephen Goddard
Beatriz Guinares
Stephen Hamel
Amy Holmbraker
Olivia Jeay
John Kolat
Nadia Kokourina
Ignacio Lacorzana
Desmond Li
Guillaume Martin-Chico
Paul May
Peter May
Jay McCormick
Tarun Mohita
Girish Menezes
Anthony Newton
Lassi Noponen
Todd Pearson
James Penney
Judith Perle
Joan Pia
Hugh Reed
Michael Rees
Otilio Rivera
Paul Robison
Ranjit Sankararathnam
Darren Sharp
Julia Sherbrooke
Jerome Sicard
Atsushi Tabara
Ken Hui Tan
Maria José Teixeira
Natalia Tsapova
Cecilia Tse
Richard Turvill
Vijay Utharwar
Nelezen van Gelderen
Anthony Vassallo
Christopher Wilcock
Matthew Willis
Hiroyasu Yamakawa

London Business School exists to advance learning and research in business and management

**HUGE
IS ON
ARDS,
TUSC,
WIND**
**ONE
DON
976**
1 Street,
Centre.
3909

Rise in women drivers adds to congestion

Londoners find public transport costly and inconvenient, writes Nigel Hawkes

WOMEN drivers are largely responsible for the growth of traffic in London, a new study has shown.

The inconvenience, cost and perceived lack of security of buses, the Tube and trains are mainly responsible for putting so many more women behind the wheel, London Research Centre, an organisation set up by the London boroughs, says.

Between 1981 and 1991, the increase in the number of cars on London's roads was almost entirely down to women making more trips. Male driving has not increased, while female driving shows a 50 per cent increase.

The growth in women drivers is matched by an increase in the number of accidents involving women, which has now overtaken that of men. Serious injuries to women involving one or more nights in hospital have increased by 173 per cent between 1981 and 1991.

The report argues that the reasons chosen by women for driving are justified and powerful, and that the transport problems identified by women reflect the kind of trips they make — shopping, working and taking children to and from school.

The car is particularly valued after dark, says the report, when security from verbal abuse or physical attack is added to its "door-to-door" convenience.

Walking home from a bus stop or Tube stop is especially unpopular.

The study is based on the London Area Transport Survey, a large study carried out in 1991. It includes interviews with women travellers and identifies six reasons why women prefer car travel. They are: convenience, security, cost, time, journey awkwardness, and feeling in control of personal space and journey.

Improvements in public transport must address two issues if they are to wean women from their cars, the report says. "The first is the problem of insecure travel, particularly when walking or using public transport. The second is a new role for public transport staff, with greater emphasis on customer care, courtesy and respect." Traditional planning had inhibited a real understanding of people's travel choices.

Alyne Friesner, deputy chief executive of the London Research Centre, said: "Public transport is currently not geared to meet women's travel needs, with the result they are opting to use the car, where they can afford to do so. I hope the forthcoming transport White Paper will take a positive approach to providing real alternatives to the car."



A strict eye was kept on hemlines in the Stewards' Enclosure

Earrings mark arrival of lady's day at Henley

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A PAIR of "jazzy" earrings signalled the end of 159 years of male domination at the Henley Royal Regatta. The wearer, Di Ellis, is the first woman steward to be appointed for life.

The only other women stewards have been three mayors, who automatically held the honour during their year in office in recognition of the fact that the first regatta in 1839 was introduced by the mayor.

Mrs Ellis will wear the stewards' traditional navy blue blazer with a calf-length skirt instead of cream flannels. "The jazzy earrings will be my way of introducing a bit of femininity," she said.

Mrs Ellis, chairman of the Amateur Rowing Association, joins 52 men on the self-selecting body of stewards. "I was stunned that they asked me, but very proud," she said. "The invitation was in recognition of the success of women's rowing at international level." She rowed for a club and stroked the Great Britain eight in the 1966 European championship.

It is ladies' year at Henley, with the regatta organisers introducing a women's invitation eight. Four crews have been invited from Great Britain, Australia, Canada and the United States.

Michael Sweeney, chairman of the regatta, said the success of women's rowing nationally and internationally should be



Di Ellis sporting her steward's badge

reflected in the programme at Henley. "The best rowers in the world, both men and women, should have the opportunity of racing at the best regatta in the world."

Not all women were being welcomed yesterday, however. Within two hours of the gates opening, dozens had been turned away because their skirts revealed their knees.

"Skirts or dresses have got to cover the knees, and we have seen a few this morning," Cieron Duggan, head of security at the Stewards' Enclosure, said. "Some were borderline, but we've also seen one or two belts. The first day is always the worst."

Several seasoned attenders, who had learnt to lower the length to get in and then hitch their skirts up once inside, were happily displaying the offending body parts. Robert Trehearne Jones, a regatta spokesman, said: "There are always problems with short skirts, in spite of the fact that members of the enclosure are reminded every year to make their guests familiar with the dress code regulations."

A record number of crews performed to half-empty stands along the one-mile 550-yard course yesterday. This year's entry of 552 crews beat the total of 547 in 1996. There are 118 overseas crews from 19 countries.

The unsettled weather considerably reduced the crowds. But the enclosure bars still expect to serve 30,000 pints of Pimm's, 50,000 pints of beer and 5,000 bottles of champagne during the five days.

Not participating this year will be the oldest member of the Stewards' Enclosure, Ernest Huddy, 95, from Dorset, who rowed at Henley in 1924, will miss his first regatta for 52 years because of a hip replacement operation.

Also absent is the rower Tony Crosbie, who pulled out of his race at the last minute when his wife unexpectedly went into labour. His place was taken by Damian Hammond, at 181 5lb the heaviest rower on the day.

Regatta report, page 51

Windows '98 Available now

Windows '98 is available right now, ready to take away today. There's no need to order or wait for it to be delivered, you can get your copy in-store now.

See how to make your PC work faster and smarter at PC World. Our expert staff will be on hand in our dedicated demonstration area where each PC will be available to clearly show Windows '98 in action with easy Internet access, scanning and new DVD and dual monitor technology.



MAXIMISE THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR PC

MICROSOFT WINDOWS '98 UPGRADE

- WORK FASTER. Start up your favourite applications up to 36% faster.
- MORE SPACE. Up to 25% more free hard disk space.
- WORK SMARTER. Thousands of enhancements since Windows '95.
- BETTER GAMEPLAY. With better and faster 3D graphics.

£69.99

IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND E-MAIL

SUPERIOR SCANNING

NEW DVD TECHNOLOGY

Windows 98 Upgrade & Plus '98

PLUS '98 offers amazing tools to customise and maintain Windows '98

- Protects your PC with McAfee Antivirus checker
- Customises your PC with new themes
- Optimises your hard drive
- FREE Quick Course in Windows '98 book

PLUS '98, usual price £34.99

Total Separate Selling Price £104.98

£99.99

FREE BOOK

Upgrade and Plus '98

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF WINDOWS '98

HAVE YOU GOT ENOUGH MEMORY? See an immediate increase in the performance of your PC when you add extra memory. PC World recommend at least 32Mb of memory to run Windows '98.

4Mb FREE MEMORY

£99.98

FASTER INTERNET AND E-MAIL

DIAMOND 56K MODEM + WINDOWS '98 UPGRADE

SAVE £20

£128

RECORD YOUR OWN CDs

CD RECORDER TRAXDATA CR2200

REWRITABLE CD-ROM DRIVE

FREE WINDOWS '98 UPGRADE

£298

PLUS MANY MORE WINDOWS '98 PACKAGE DEALS AVAILABLE

PC WORLD THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

WE'LL GET YOU UP & RUNNING WITH WINDOWS '98

We can explain how Windows '98 will run on your existing PC and what you can do to maximise the new software's performance.

TO RUN WINDOWS '98 SUCCESSFULLY PC WORLD RECOMMENDS:

- 32MB RAM
- 33MHz Processor
- 32MB Hard Drive
- VGA Card
- Mouse
- Windows 98 Upgrade

PC WORLD TECHNICAL CENTRE TAKES CARE OF INSTALLATION

If you need help our in-store Technical Centre can install Windows '98 in your PC, together with any other software and other upgrades you may need.

Our helpful expert staff will also be happy to give you specialist advice about how to get the best out of your particular system. We can even arrange installation in your home if you prefer!

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| ■ ASHDEAN | ■ DONCASTER | ■ LIVERPOOL | ■ PORTSMOUTH | ■ STOKE | ■ SWINDON |
| ■ BIRMINGHAM | ■ EAST KILBRIDE | ■ MANCHESTER | ■ POOLE | ■ SWANSEA | ■ TRESSIDE |
| ■ BIRMINGHAM JUNGLE OFFICE | ■ EDINBURGH | ■ NEWCASTLE | ■ PRESTON | | |
| ■ BRISTOL | ■ GATESHEAD | ■ NORTH SHIELDS | ■ READING | | |
| ■ CANTERBURY | ■ GLASGOW | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SELBY OAK | | |
| ■ CARDIFF | ■ HULL | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SHEFFIELD | | |
| ■ CHATHAM | ■ IPSWICH | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SLOUGH | | |
| ■ CHESTER | ■ LEEDS | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | | |
| ■ COLCHESTER | ■ LEICESTER | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | | |
| ■ COVENTRY | ■ LINCOLN | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | | |
| ■ DERBY | | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | ■ SOUTHAMPTON | | |

Healthy response to food message

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A TEAM of British psychologists claims to have come up with a sure-fire solution to a seemingly intractable problem faced by millions of distraught parents: how to persuade children to eat their greens.

Researchers at the University of Wales have created a set of fictional live-action and cartoon characters capable of exerting enormous influence over two to seven-year-olds.

More than 200 five to seven-year-olds were shown an action adventure video of a group of children, aged eight to ten and known as the Food Dudes, who asked the children to help them in their fight against General Junk and his evil junk food junta by eating fruit and vegetables to stay healthy and keep the life force strong.

Younger children, aged two to four, were exposed to a different video in which two cartoon characters, Jarvis and Jess, were shown enjoying fruit and vegetables.

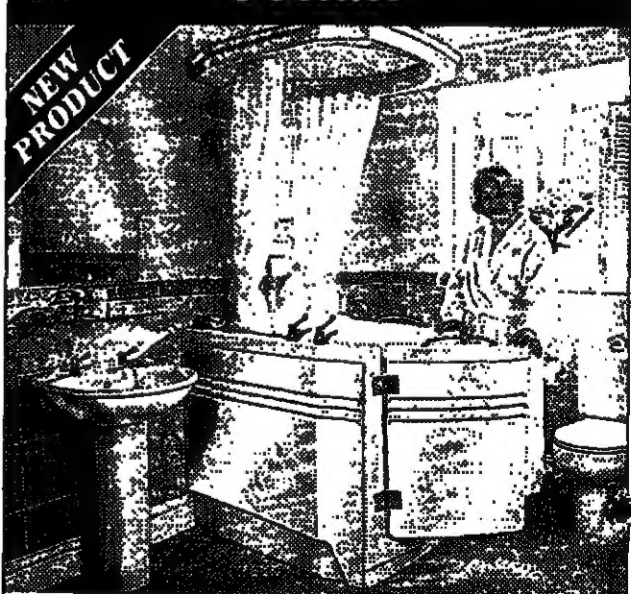
In a paper to the British

Psychological Society's annual health conference in Wales today, Michael Bowdery, a researcher on the project, said: "We realised that children respond well to the opinions of their peers, especially if the others are a bit older than themselves. They look up to them and treat them like heroes."

The message was reinforced with a range of Food Dude prizes, including stickers, lunchboxes and baseball caps, which were awarded to children who consumed sufficient quantities of targeted foods.

Mr Bowdery said the scheme, tested in schools, a day-nursery and in children's homes, had been highly successful in removing tension from family dinner times. Tests conducted in a class of 26 primary school children showed that fruit consumption more than doubled and vegetable consumption increased fourfold in just 12 days. Consumption levels remained just as high after six months.

It's so easy - step in, sit down, close the door and relax.



Introducing the new 'Tranquility' easy-access bath from Dolphin.

The 'Tranquility' is a deep soak bath which features an integral door for 'step-in', 'step-out' access and a contoured seat for relaxed bathing in complete comfort and safety. It also comes with a matching canopy for use with the shower of your choice.

Dolphin's full range of special needs showers and baths features foldaway, corner or power seats ideal for wheelchair users, and all the thoughtful touches you expect from the UK's premier suppliers of fitted bathrooms.

From planning and design to full installation, Dolphin take care of everything. Bathing has never been easier.

SHOWROOMS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK For a first no-obligation design survey, or details of your nearest showroom, please fax or return the coupon below.

0800 62 62 48

http://www.dolphin-fitted-bathrooms.co.uk

Please send me no free brochures and provide further information about Dolphin Special Needs Bathrooms.

Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

First free to: Dolphin Special Needs Bathrooms, Freepost, Manchester M16 5SH

Dolphin SPECIAL NEEDS BATHROOMS

مكتبة الأصل

Everyone knows that there's a lot of money to be made on the stock market. (Over the last 5 years an investment in Britain's top companies would have more than doubled your money.)

The problem is, everyone also knows that putting their hard-earned savings on the stock market can be risky.

Not any more. The Advanced Savings Account from b² has arrived.

By using a portion of your savings to buy 'Stockmarket Protection' you guarantee that, even if the stock market is down at the end of your chosen period, every penny you put in will be there to take out. (And in case you're wondering, this guarantee is provided by Barclays Bank.)

Of course, in all probability the stock market will have risen. In which case, all the gains will be yours, and they can be tax-free.

You'll also receive regular income payments, and these can be tax-free too.

Better still, b² will make the whole process painless. There'll be no hassle, no hidden charges and no jargon.

You can join with just £500, or be a regular saver for as little as £50 a month. And you can get at your savings whenever you want.

Our lines are open 8am - 10pm, seven days a week.

The way b² sees it, using the stock market to make your savings grow should be safe, easy and uncomplicated. So call us now for an information pack.

The Advanced Savings Account from b².

B

300 62 62 62

For a pack call us, or send coupon to b², Freepost SEA4934, Kingston-Upon-Thames, KT2 6BR.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE _____ B0712

b² Limited is an Appointed Representative of Barclays Funds Limited (BFL) and only offers their unit trusts: Stockmarket Protection from Barclays Bank plc (BFL and Barclays Bank regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority). You cannot rely on past performance to predict how your investment will perform in the future. Future performance will be reduced because of the changed basis of taxation introduced by the 1997 Finance Act. The price of units and the income they pay can go down as well as up. Stock market growth is based upon FTSE Top 100. Source: BGI and Datastream. Comparisons taken across five years to 1 April 1998. Money used for protection will not grow. At least 85% of money put in guaranteed on early withdrawal. Current tax treatment of PEPs is assumed. Calls are recorded.

The Stock Market. Now available with a money-back guarantee.

www.b2.com

HUGE
US ON
ARDS,
MUSIC,
WIND
ONE
DON
976
1 Street,
Centre,
3909
1 to 1000.

Lloyd Webber stakes his reputation on rewrite

Whistle Down
the Wind
composer is
in need of a
big hit, writes
Dalya Alberge

EIGHTEEN months after American critics slated *Whistle Down the Wind* at its premiere in Washington, prompting a major rewrite, Andrew Lloyd Webber last night opened his new musical in London.

The reviews were so scathing that the New York opening was abandoned while such dramatic changes were made to the score that last night's show at the Aldwych Theatre was seen as another world premiere. Something had to be done after the *Washington Post* dismissed the original as "just dull", the *Washington Times* called it "a turgid thing" and the *International Herald Tribune* branded it the composer's "weakest show besides *Aspects of Love*".

Commenting on the rewrite, Lloyd Webber, 50, said: "I haven't got to this stage of my career to settle for a musical of mine being 'fine'." British critics dispatched to America had warned to the musical, which tells the story of children who mistake an escaped convict for Jesus. Benedict Nightingale wrote in *The Times*: "You thrill to the sound of true music, authentic drama." Nevertheless, observers see this musical as crucial, noting that Lloyd Webber could really do with another success after the disappointing box-office takings of *Sunset Boulevard* and *Aspects of Love*. Richard Morrison, Arts Editor of *The Times*, said: "It's a long time since he had a massive smash hit."

Last year the composer admitted that the golden days of the musical may be over. The man who wrote box-office giants such as *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Starlight Express* expressed doubts as to whether there were large profits still to be made. *Sunset Boulevard* in-



Whistle cast includes James Graeme and Lottie Mayor, at the rear, with Danielle Calvert and Ricki Cuttill

cluded massive financial losses.

Critics are divided in their opinions. While some suggest that the conventional Lloyd Webber production may be falling out of fashion, others observe that, despite the sneering of reviewers and weeping of musical theatre purists, "nothing stops the Lloyd Webber juggernaut". On an optimistic note, the

£2.3 million production of *Whistle Down the Wind* has already taken £3 million in advance at the box office: the Australian singer Tina Arena is already making her mark in the charts with the title song; and Tom Jones and the gospel-based choir The Sounds of Blackness are about to release songs from the show.

Last night's guest list included the playwright Alan Ayckbourn, the novelist Frederick Forsyth, the film director and producer Michael Winner, and Norma Major, wife of the former Prime Minister. Also there was the actress Hayley Mills, who starred in the 1961 film that inspired the musical.

Whistle Down the Wind is based on the novel by Mary Hayley Bell, Hayley Mills' mother, who also attended last night's premiere. In Lloyd Webber's version, the story is relocated to Louisiana in 1959, where it tackles racism and the dawn of rock'n'roll. The musical, which is directed by Celia Edwards, who worked with Lloyd Webber on *Aspects of Love* and the revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, stars Marcus Lovett and Lottie Mayor.

Fed up with crazy overdraft charges?

Take off with
the bank account
that gives you
£20

Birdmen may seem crazy, but they're not as crazy as the overdraft fees some banks charge.

Switching to the Alliance Current Account could save you over £100 on a £200 overdraft. The table below compares our charges to other banks. We think you'll agree, ours make a lot more sense. Especially as we'll give you a £20 bonus just for joining.

COMPARE THE COST OF USING A £200 AUTHORISED OVERDRAFT FOR A YEAR	
Alliance Current Account	£24.00
Barclays Bank Account	£97.00
Lloyds Bank Classic	£133.00
NatWest Current Account	£95.00

These figures compare the cost of interest and charges you would pay to use an authorised £200 overdraft every month for a year.

- £20 when you open your account
- Free banking
- 24 hour telephone banking
- Generous credit interest rates

The Alliance Current Account gives you access to your money at over 300 Alliance & Leicester branches, more than 14,000 LINK cash machines and nearly 20,000 post offices.

There's no more convenient way to bank. Moving to the Alliance Current Account is easy with our free Switching Pack.

So, don't let your bank drive you mad. Call us today on 0500 95 95 95 and fly the nest.

Sensible banking in a mad, mad world

Alliance Leicester

Call free today and get £20* 0500 95 95 95

Quoting ref N368

All applicants must be aged 18 years and over and agree to pay a minimum deposit of £500 into their account. Applications and overdrafts are subject to status. Written quotations are available on request. Free banking when in credit. 3.0% gross p.a. paid on credit balances of £2,000 and over. Interest rates are variable. Rates quoted apply to authorised overdrafts. *To qualify for the £20 offer, you must have your account within 2 months of the opening date. For security and training purposes telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 40 Park Lane, London, W1Y 4ED. Interest rates and charges quoted in Moneyfacts June 98 as follows: Barclays Bank Accounts: 1.45% per month (EAR 18.1% variable) with monthly charges of £3. Lloyds Bank Classic: 1.45% (EAR 18.1% variable) monthly fee £6. NatWest 1.50% (EAR 17.0% variable) monthly fee £5, against Alliance Current Account rate of 0.55% per month (EAR 12.0% and no monthly fee). All information correct at time of going to press (June 98).

NEWS IN BRIEF

HIV alert for dental patients

Patients of three dental clinics have been offered counselling and HIV tests after the disclosure that a dental worker was HIV-positive. All 550 patients who came into contact with the dental worker have been notified. It was not revealed whether he or she was a dentist, nurse or hygienist. The risk of infection was said to be extremely low. The clinics were the Brocklebank Health Centre in Wandsworth, South London, Dental Care in Sackville Road, Bexhill, Sussex, and a private practice in Shoreham, Sussex.

There is hope

The number of people involved in parish worship in the Church of England could be higher than thought. A survey of the Ripon diocese in Yorkshire found 11,500 people attended on a Sunday but 28,000 were involved in church life, with thousands going midweek or monthly.

Fireman drunk

A drunk fireman who crashed a fire engine on a 999 call was banned from driving for two years and fined £500. Stuart Middleton, 24, was more than twice the drink-drive limit. Evesham magistrates were told. He has resigned from his part-time post at Broadway, Hereford and Worcester.

Boar rampage

Shoppers and children fled as an enraged 30-stone wild boar rampaged through of a suburban housing estate in Gateshead, Tyne-side. It was finally shot by a police marksman after attempts at capture failed. No one has yet been able to discover where the animal came from.

Bargain hunting

A foxhunting scene by Sir Alfred Munnings, which was originally sold for £26, made £52,100 at an auction at Bonhams in Knightsbridge, London. The watercolour, *The Gap*, was painted in 1909 and belonged to Sir Robin Gillitt, Lord Mayor of London from 1976-77.

ENGLAND

Avon
Kingsmead Motor Company, Bath
01225 402200
Bedfordshire
Hartwell Ford, Dunstable
01582 667811
Polar Ford, Bedford
01234 358391
Berkshire
Maidenhead Ford
01628 771177
Hemel Hempstead, Reading
01189 608608
Cotswolds of Wokingham
01189 794776
Bristol
Brunel Ford
0117 908 9999
Buckinghamshire
Perrys of Aylesbury
01296 426162
Chiltern Ford, High Wycombe
01494 450000
Perrys of Milton Keynes
01908 360200
Cambridgeshire
City Ford, Cambridge
01223 315435
T C Harrison, Peterborough
01733 558111
Cheshire
Arriva Ford, Stockport
0161 480 0211
Atlantic Ford, Wimslow
01625 252222
M & S Ford, Ellesmere Port
0151 357 1221
Polar Ford, Warrington
01925 651111
Quicks of Altrincham
0161 929 0365
Quicks of Chester
01244 320444
Cleveland
Jennings of Hartlepool
01429 850000
Jennings of Stockton
Stockton-on-Tees
01642 675471
Cumbria
Vospers of Turro
01872 226226
County Durham
Sanderson Ford, Darlington
01325 467581
Cumbria
CG Ford, Carlisle
01228 517200
Derbyshire
GK Ford, Chesterfield
01246 209999
T C Harrison, Derby
01332 340271
Devon
Taw Garages, Barnstaple
01271 374173
Evans Halshaw Motors, Exeter
01392 250141
Vospers Motor House
Marsh Mills, Plymouth
01752 636363
Dorset
English Ford, Poole
01202 715577
Essex
Allen Ford, Brentwood
01277 261616
Essex Ford, Basildon
01268 522744
Dovercourt Ford, Chelmsford
01245 264111
Dovercourt Ford, Colchester
01206 791171
Dagenham Motors, Dagenham
0181 592 6695
R T Rate Ltd, Grays
01375 391234
Gates of Harlow
01279 421166
Doe Motors, Maldon
01621 852345
Allen Ford, Romford
01708 745091
Perrys of Southend
01268 775544
Hancock Ford, Woodford
0181 504 4466
Gloucestershire
Bristol Street, Cheltenham
01242 229922
Hampshire
Doves Ford, Fareham
01329 281818
Hancock Ford, Farnborough
01252 544344
Hendy Ford, Chislehurst
01703 271271
Hendy Ford, Havant
01705 459900
Herefordshire
Hartwell Ford, Hereford
01432 276494
Hertfordshire
Gates of Stortford
Bishop's Stortford
01279 652214
Sky Ford, Hemel Hempstead
01442 220200
Hancock Ford, Letchworth
01462 683722
Godfrey Davis, St Albans
01727 791300
Dagenham Motors, Stevenage
01438 366000
Godfrey Davis, Welwyn
01438 716123
Kent
Laidlaw Kent, Bexley
01322 526999
Bristol Street Bromley
0181 249 9000
Invicta Motors, Canterbury
01227 762777
Swale Motors, Gravesend
01474 537537
Haynes of Maidstone Ltd
01622 756781
Stromont Ford, Sevenoaks
01732 741741
Stromont Ford, Tonbridge
01732 770000
Stromont Ford, Tonbridge Wells
01892 515666

Lancashire
Evans Halshaw, Preston
01772 204000
M & S Ford, Wigan
01942 823000
O M C Ford Oldham
0161 287 4142
Pye Motors Limited
Morecambe
01524 63553
Quicks of Ashton
0161 330 0121
Quicks of Old Trafford
Manchester
0161 872 2201
Sanderson Ford, Burnley
01282 425991
Leicestershire
Sandcliffe of Leicester
0116 233 2332
Lincolnshire
Hartwell Ford, Grimsby
01472 358941
Lincoln Ford, Lincoln
01522 530101
London
Highbury Ford, Highbury, N1
0171 505 5000
Hartwell Ford, Lewisham, SE13
0181 852 9111
Dagenham Motors, Plaistow, E15
0181 534 7661
City Ford, Wimbledon, SW17
0181 946 9000
Merseyside
J Blake & Company, Liverpool
0151 261 1000
Peoples, Liverpool
0151 922 0070
Middlesex
Alperton Ford, Alperton
0181 997 3388
Perrys of Edgware
0181 952 2353
Dagenham Motors, Enfield
0181 362 4500
Crimble of Staines
01784 466666
Dagenham Motors, Uxbridge
01895 233444
Norfolk
John Grose, King's Lynn
01553 770060
Busseys, Norwich
01603 424022
Northamptonshire
Ryland Soans, Northampton
01604 581121
Ward of Wellingborough
01933 440110
Nottinghamshire
Evans Halshaw, Mansfield
01623 625222
Arriva Ford, Nottingham
0115 955 7400
Sandcliffe of Stapleford
0115 939 5000
Oxfordshire
Hartwell Ford
01865 249966
Shropshire
Furrows of Telford
01952 641433
Somerset
Whites of Taunton Ltd
01823 335481
Staffordshire
Bristol Street Stafford
01785 251331
Chetfield Ford, Stoke-on-Trent
01782 202591
King Ford, Stoke-on-Trent
01782 599333
Hamer Ford, Tamworth
01827 312121
Suffolk
Edmondson Ford
Bury St Edmunds
01284 752332
A G Potter Ltd, Framlingham
01728 723215
John Grose, Ipswich
01473 270707
John Grose, Lowestoft
01502 565353
Surrey
Dagenham Motors, Cobham
01932 864244
Dees of Croydon Ltd
0181 686 8888
Page Motors, Epsom
01372 804000
Grays of Guildford
01483 560601
Sussex
Evans Halshaw, Brighton
01273 422552
Otters Ford, Crawley
01293 613361
Birchwood Ford, Eastbourne
01323 414400
Hancock Ford, Horsham
01403 254331
Tyne & Wear
Arriva Ford, Sunderland
0191 514 0311
Jennings of Gateshead
0191 460 7464
Jennings of Washington
0191 416 7700
Patterson Ford
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
0191 261 1471
Patterson Ford, Shiremoor
0191 253 1221
Warwickshire
Corner Ford, Coventry
01203 507000
Ryland Soans
Leamington Spa
01926 314466
West Midlands
Bristol Street Birmingham
0121 666 6000
Heartlands Ford, Birmingham
0121 377 3000
Hamer Ford, Dudley
01384 357777
Reg Vardy, Wolverhampton
01902 455500

Wiltshire
Edwards Ford, Salisbury
01722 424242
Arriva Ford, Swindon
01793 520002
Worcestershire
Brooklyn Ford, Redditch
01527 521212
Bristol Street Worcester
01905 763123
Yorkshire - East
Sanderson Ford, Hull
01482 324234
Yorkshire - North
Crystal Ford, Harrogate
01423 885933
Polar Ford, York
01904 625371
Skipton Ford, Skipton
01756 700700
Yorkshire - South
Dixon Ford, Sheffield
0114 276 6000
Polar Ford, Barnsley
01226 732732
Ringways Garages (Doncaster) Ltd
01302 785221
T C Harrison, Sheffield
0114 275 1515
Yorkshire - West
Arriva Ford, Huddersfield
01484 429675
Benfield Ford, Leeds
0113 243 6700
Polar Ford, Bradford
01274 305941
Ringways Garages (Leeds) Ltd
0113 263 4222
West Yorkshire Motors
Castleford
01977 603644
SCOTLAND
Aberdeen, Arnold Clark
01224 213213
01224 697772
Bathgate, Peoples
01506 656685
Berwick, Cochrane
01289 305585
Dumfries, Strathford
01389 765131
Edinburgh, Laidlaw
0131 669 6261
Forfar, Glenford
01307 462347
Glasgow, Premier Ford
0141 954 1500
Glasgow, Wyllies
0141 423 6644
Inverness, Macrae and Dick
01224 230430
Kirkcaldy, Laidlaw
01592 261199
Kilmarnock, Strathford
01563 555100
Motherwell, Trust
01698 321111
Perth, Frews Cars
01738 625121
NORTHERN IRELAND
Ballymena, Lindsay Cars
01266 42272
Belfast, J E Coulter
01232 744744
Belfast, Knockdane
01232 654687
Lisburn, Lindsay Cars
01846 673121
Londonderry, Desmond Motors
01504 367613
WALES
Bridgend Ford, Bridgend
01656 300100
Forthorne, Cardiff
01222 223100
Evans Halshaw, Cardiff
01242 490511
K J Ford, Llandudno Junction
01492 593444
Newport Ford, Newport, Gwent
01633 278020
Days of Swansea
01792 222111
W R Davies (Motors) Ltd
Welshepool
01938 552391
ISLE OF MAN
E B Christian & Company Ltd
Douglas
01624 673211
ISLE OF WIGHT
Premier Ford, Newport
01983 523441
CHANNEL ISLANDS
Bougard Bros, Guernsey
01481 724774
La Motte Ford, Jersey
01534 22262

SR
SALES & SERVICE
VARIABLE DEBIT

Ford
DEALERS

حکومت الاصل

YOU WANT
TO BE

£26,320 on the road[†]
or £203 per month 8.4% APR* on Options
(plus deposit and optional final purchase payment)

So, to test drive the **WORLD'S BEST-SELLING 4X4**, where you want to be is at your local Sport and Recreation Specialist Dealer.

Subject to availability for a limited period only. Price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price. *OPTIONAL TYPICAL EXAMPLE: Explorer, Mileage (per annum) 18,000, Deposit \$9,219.00, Balance \$17,100.00, Total charge for credit \$9,680.56 (includes a finance facility fee of \$70, payable with the first monthly payment.) Total amount payable \$29,000.56. Term (months) 36. 34 months payments of \$820.69. Optional final payment to purchase (minimum guaranteed future value) \$14,860.00. APR 8.4%. Further charges may be made subject to mileage condition if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Written questions available on request. Prepost FCE plc. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Finance is provided subject to status. Certain business rates not applicable. Excludes fleets over 24 units.

[illegible]

**id
es
er
s**

former
med-
group
: part
aysia
i will
onth,
trick-
letics
o its
d 150

radi-
teen
the
lan-
ap-
sen
am
the
im-

bus
vill
ur-
OO
ur
d's
aw
ue
n-
te
at
e-
IO
O
A-
L
e

direct
ve a
(ac
was a
to the
millu
iron.
to yet
in the
d the
at his
vig.
's Oc
ge to
com-
e was
1, as
dioma
titing
ound-
stinct-
adrid-
has
. oper-
c: this
restral
of a
oving
begin-
ed by
ents.
been
1. The
their
using
a than
it air.

SON

L

**AGE
ON
IDS,
SIC,
'IND
NE
ON
76
rest,
more.
309
pross.**



Hanley: MEP hope

Hanley is ready for comeback

SIR JEREMY HANLEY, the amiable if gaffe-prone former Tory party chairman, is preparing for a political comeback as a Euro-MP (James Landale writes).

Sir Jeremy, who lost his Richmond and Barnes seat last year, has emerged as a front-runner among potential Tory candidates for the new London Euro-region. He will be among 25 people interviewed by senior Tories this weekend. Their shortlist of 15 will then be ranked in order of preference by a mass meeting on July 11.

Under the new system of proportional representation for next year's elections to the European Parliament, each party will put forward an ordered list of candidates in each of eleven regions. Sir Jeremy has a good chance of securing one of the top slots in London, where the Tories are expected to win three seats.

Blair and Brown tackle problem of rift rumours

A RUSH of speculation suggesting tensions between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown prompted a strong denial of trouble yesterday from Downing Street.

The Prime Minister's press spokesman, who usually stays clear of such matters, went out of his way to quash the idea that the most important partnership in politics was under strain. There was no rift. "There is only a problem if there is a problem. There is not a problem," he said.

People trying to suggest there were difficulties "underestimate what they have been through together in modernising the Labour Party, running the election campaign, winning the election, and getting through the first full year of government". Mr Blair and Mr Brown worked more closely together than any Chancellor and Prime Minister in recent history. The reality of that was more important than newspaper articles suggesting otherwise, he said.

Mr Blair's spokesman is probably justified in his main assertion. No one has been able to produce any evidence of any falling out between Mr Blair and Mr Brown at a personal level. Their early morning daily meeting — on their own without officials present — is the most important in government. Any

The Cabinet's main partners

know they cannot

afford to drift apart, writes

Philip Webster

differences they have over policies tend to get ironed out there away from the gaze of colleagues in committee or full Cabinet. Their friendship may not be quite what it was before the leadership election of 1994 but it remains strong. They know better than anyone that they must not drift apart.

But Mr Blair and Mr Brown are aware that there is a problem, and at one of their regular private meetings yesterday they discussed it. The difficulty is that the feeling of mistrust that has grown up over several years between the Blair and Brown camps has worsened considerably in recent weeks.

A senior Labour politician said privately yesterday that "the camp followers are running out of control". He may not be far from the truth. With the long-awaited Cab-

net reshuffle only weeks away the Brownites and Blairites in government and those waiting on the back benches for promotion have been manoeuvring for position. Some have been briefing against each other with abandon in recent days, resulting in a series of damaging headlines on feature articles, including "The clouds are gathering over Gordon Brown" in the *London Evening Standard* on Tuesday. Some in No 10, who resent what they see as Mr Brown's overbearing tendencies, are not slow to say unkind things about him. And even though relations between Mr Brown and Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, are better than they were, the deep suspicions between their aides and supporters remain.

This week Mr Brown has felt the injured party. He is known to be upset and worried about the latest spate of stories. They dominated his chat with Mr Blair yesterday.

But at other times this year Mr Blair has been irritated and his close circle outraged, notably after the publication of Paul Rottledge's biography of Mr Brown, which suggested that he harboured grudges over the 1994 election to succeed John Smith as party leader.

The comprehensive spend-



ing review has involved painful behind-the-scenes confrontations between the Treasury and the spending ministers. Mr Brown upset his long-time ally Margaret Beckett and his friends in the unions over his tough line on the minimum wage.

He is apparently furious at suggestions from the Blairites that he is cosying up to the

unions to prepare for the day he when he again has a tilt at the leadership. A close friend said: "If he was trying to please them he has gone a strange way about it."

Yesterday a source close to Mr Blair said that he would be horrified if he knew that people who called themselves his allies were briefing against Mr Brown. "If they are doing

it, they are not doing it with his authority."

Mr Brown and Mr Blair are believed to have concluded yesterday that they will have to live with the rumours. "They both know that there are people out there who will try to make things awkward between them," a source said. "They know that they will have to rise above it."

Speaker puts new MP in her place

By Polly Newton

FOURTEEN months after being elected, a Labour MP proved yesterday that she is still a new girl with her debut at Prime Minister's Questions.

Jane Griffiths (Reading East) asked: "Does the Prime Minister recall that the Tories campaigned in support of poverty pay by fighting to try to stop the Government's Minimum Wage Bill. Do you hope as I do that the Tories will — for once — stick to their principles and at the next election we will campaign about having brought in the minimum wage and..."

With a cry of "order!", the Speaker intervened. "I must remind you... that the Prime Minister is responsible for his own Government's policies and not for the activities of the Opposition."

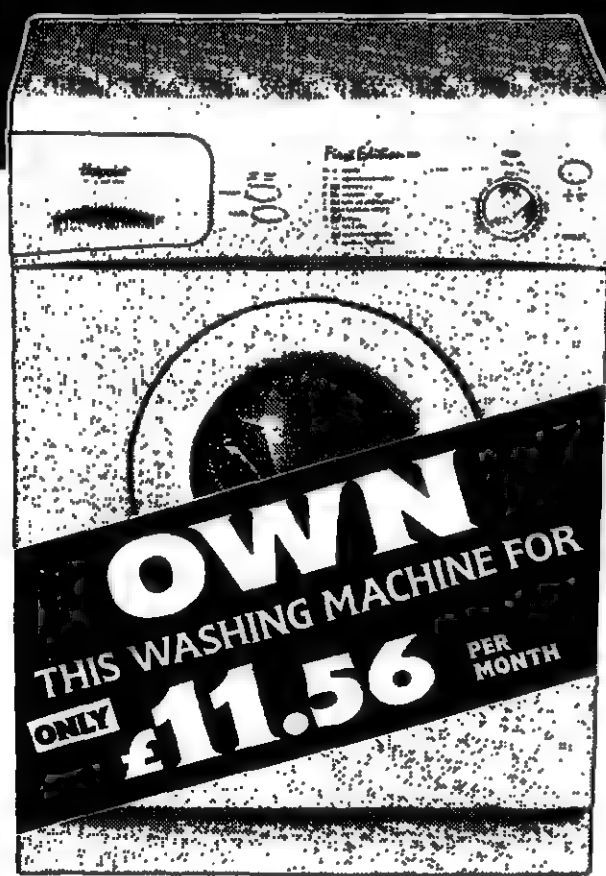
When urged to rephrase the question, Miss Griffiths froze. The Speaker shouted: "Miss Griffiths! It is your first question at Prime Minister's Question Time. Could you rephrase it in some way?"

After faltering again, and being prompted by colleagues, she finally got it: "Would you agree with me — share with me — in confirming that our policy is to support the poorest workers in this country?"

"Well done," Miss Boothroyd beamed. It was no masterpiece but it had the desired effect and Miss Griffiths finally got an answer. It may be a while before she tries again.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST IN LAUNDRY

Currys



OWN
THIS WASHING MACHINE FOR
ONLY £11.56 PER MONTH

WHY RENT?

Currys

TO OWN A WASHING MACHINE

HOTPOINT 800 SPIN 'FIRST EDITION'

ONLY £11.56 PER MONTH*

COMPARE PRICES FOR YOURSELF

GRANADA

TO RENT A WASHING MACHINE

HOTPOINT 800 SPIN 'FIRST EDITION'

£13.99 PER MONTH*

SALE NOW ON

CHOOSE FROM OVER 190 LAUNDRY APPLIANCES

***CURRYS EASIPLAN**
SPREAD THE COST
WITH 48 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS

Currys example: HOTPOINT WM51 including 4 Year Coverplan and delivery and installation. Total Cash Price £411.98. Deposit £20.60. 48 monthly payments of £11.56. Total amount payable £575.48. Payment by direct debit only. Credit subject to status. Applicants must be over 18. Written quotations available from Dept MK Easiplan, DSG Retail Ltd, Watlington Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG.

*Granada example: Total amount to rent for 48 months (at current pricing) £686.52 including a one-off £15 administrative charge for new customers. One month's rental in advance. Minimum rental period 12 months (regions may vary). Includes delivery, installation and service.

APR 19.9%

Poll gloom is no cause for Labour concern

GORDON BROWN will not be too alarmed at the sharp drop in economic optimism revealed by the latest MORI poll in *The Times* today. It was bound to happen some time. The strong economic expansion could not continue for ever. Indeed, it has been the policy of both the Treasury and the Bank of England since last summer to slow the rate of growth in order to prevent an acceleration in inflation. The problem has been judging when, and how much, to apply the brakes — as has been reflected in the seersaw debates of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee this year.

But the balance has now clearly shifted. Surveys of business opinion and order books, especially of exports, have all turned distinctly more pessimistic in the past few weeks. That change in mood has now clearly worked through to affect public attitudes. This probably reflects a combination of the latest round of mortgage rate increases, the latest announcements about redundancies and the recent flurry of media stories about the Asian economic crisis and the increased dangers of a recession in Britain.

Not only is the latest decline in the MORI economic optimism index very sharp for a single month — only exceeded twice in the past six years — but it also takes the index to the lowest level for three years. The surprising feature is not the size of the drop — such adjustments are often sharp — but the time it has taken to come. This has been matched by a small increase in dissatisfaction with the Government, though its overall rating is still healthily positive, compared with the sizeable negative ratings which the Major Government suffered throughout its life.

The key question is when this will start to affect voting intentions. At present, Tony Blair's personal ratings are slipping a little, but only from their recent stratospheric levels. The ratings of the main parties remain virtually static as they have been since late last autumn. Labour is in the 52 to 56 per cent range, and the Tories are stuck in the 26 to 28 per cent level.

There is no evidence that voters are yet willing to reassess their verdicts of May last year. The Government is being given a chance to prove itself — and the benefit of the doubt for any slip-ups and rows. Meanwhile, the Tories suffer all the frustrations of opposition, being ignored

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

and unable to make an impact on public opinion. Some spokesmen have become even more shrill and strident. It is always a tell-tell sign of such frustration and political immaturity when spokesmen start calling for the resignation of ministers, as Peter Ainsworth absurdly demanded of Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, on Monday. Mr Ainsworth is going to have to learn to be patient. The Tories' time will come, but not yet.

The main challenge to the Government is to keep calm, and united, in face of the economic slowdown and probable rise in unemployment. Mr Brown and Mr Blair are far more worried at

present by the recurrent batch of stories about rifts in Downing Street. They are determined to squash them. Their relationship remains good — with differences of policy more of nuance and timing than substance. It is absurd to view Mr Brown as more pro-European than a sceptic Mr Blair. That is an invention of the sceptics to divide the two. Working links between 10 Downing Street and the Treasury are also better than before Christmas. The trouble is the mutual backbiting among their circle of advisers. That is a real danger to the Government — and one which becomes serious if the economic news deteriorates further, the Labour poll lead falls and the party starts losing elections and by-elections.

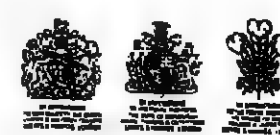
PETER RIDDELL

SUMMER SALE NOW ON

EXAMPLES OF REDUCTIONS:

	FROM	TO
SUITS	£550	£395
JACKETS	£350	£195
BLAZERS	£350	£225
SHIRTS	£59	£39
MULTI BUY 3 OR MORE (£35 EACH)		
CASUAL SHIRTS	£75	£39

ALL REDUCTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY



GIEVES & HAWKES

NO.1 SAVILE ROW W1 LONDON - 0171 434 3001
18 LIME STREET, EC3 - 0171 283 4911
20 OLD BOND STREET, BATH - 01225 463839
1-3 ST. MICHAEL'S ROW, CHESTER - 01244 327576
1&2 THE SQUARE, WINCHESTER - 01962 652096

Saturday 27 June 9.00am-6.00pm, Sunday 28 June 11.00am-5.00pm
From Monday 29 June, all branches open 9.00am-6.00pm Mon to Sat
No.1 Savile Row open until 7.00pm on Thursdays (Lime Street closed weekends)

OPEN AN INSTANT GIEVES & HAWKES MONTHLY SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT AND RECEIVE AN EXTRA 10% DISCOUNT

صكرا من الامل

Drive responsibly off-road.



THE BEST 4x4xFAR

*Warranty extends to 3 years or 60,000 miles whichever comes first. No mileage limit in the first year after purchase. Subject to manufacturer's terms and conditions. **Servicing offer expires on 30th September 1998 and agreement extends to 2 years or 24,000 miles whichever comes first. Subject to manufacturer's terms and conditions. ***Subject to availability. **Price refers to full Manual, also available as full Auto and V8 Auto. Vehicle is also available in Altaz Silver.

Lawyer defends Crown decision to halt prosecution, reports **Lin Jenkins**

He clashed with Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrence family, who accused him of taking the "role of a judge". Mr Mansfield also

STRAW RENEWS FARRAKHAN BAN

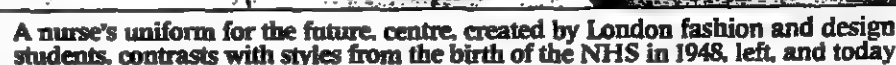
Jack Straw is to maintain the ban on Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, from entering the United Kingdom, the Home Secretary might say. But Mr. Straw made his decision after rejecting the exclusion order, and the disruption of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. To ensure that the decision cannot be ruled unfair by the courts, Mr. Farrakhan will be given another opportunity to ask Mr. Straw to lift the ban. Douglas Hurd, then Home Secretary, imposed it 12 years ago because of Mr. Farrakhan's verbal attacks on white people, Jews and homosexuals. The Nation of Islam made no comment last night on Mr. Straw's decision.

He said he knew that, if the prosecution failed, the youths would never be tried again. Under British law, a person cannot be tried twice for the

Five men — the two originally charged, together with Jamie Accourt, David Norris and Gary Dobson — were charged in the private prosecution. The case against Neil Accourt, Mr Dobson and Mr Knight was dismissed when the judge said that the identifi-

Neville and Doreen Lawrence said in a statement after yesterday's session ended: "Like the police, the CPS appear to be blaming everyone else, rather than themselves, for the failure to convict the five suspects."

"The fact that three of the suspects stood trial at all is a testament to the action taken by us. We still believe that, if the matter had been left to the jury, the suspects would now be behind bars."



By JILL SHERMAN

Mr Blair will not put a figure on proposed increases in NHS spending, which is being decided as part of the spending review, but Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, is said to be seeking an extra £10 billion over three years.

Mr Blair will make clear that any new money will have to be tied to modernisation projects in "a crusade for excellence". These will include proposals announced by Mr Dobson yesterday to set performance targets, better monitoring of the service and a new health supremo with powers to send in teams to take over management of hospitals.

Mr Dobson said he would end the lottery under which life-saving treatments freely prescribed in one health authority were not available in others. He also intended to introduce a statutory obligation on NHS trust boards to meet quality standards, not just financial targets.

Mr Dobson gave details of a National Institute for Clinical Excellence, which would provide guidance on new technologies and drugs.

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

PLANS for disaffected pupils to be allowed to drop two school subjects in favour of work experience were a truants' charter, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

Nearly 1,000 under-achieving 14-year-olds, many of whom have a history of truancy, will take part in 21 trial projects to win back their interest in learning by spending up to a day a week in college or work-based training, ministers said yesterday.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "For them it will be a truants' charter. Others who do attend school regularly will ask why truants should be rewarded in this way for their failure. And how will the Government respond

A senior government source said this was "utter rubbish". He added: "The aim is to ensure that young people who

are potential truants stay in education, and have the opportunity to realise that there is some point to it — that without qualifications they will not get a decent job.

"It's a way of ensuring that they are attending school or college and learning, rather than hanging around on street corners."

Launching the trial projects, David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said: "Too many youngsters leave without a single qualification. For these teenagers we need to offer something more than the National Curriculum."

"In the past, these youngsters could have learnt a trade and seen the direct link between training and work. We need to rebuild those links."

One teaching union endorsed the scheme. Nigel de Gruchy, of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said it was "a serious attempt to make education more relevant to disaffected pupils".

PLUS
UNBEATABLE VALUE PCs FROM
OUR NEW DAEWOO RANGE

QUALITY, RELIABILITY & PERFORMANCE AT A LOW PRICE

With our new exclusive range of Multimedia PCs from Daewoo, buying a PC has never been more affordable. Daewoo PCs offer excellent build quality and reliability coupled with performance not normally seen on PCs at these prices. It's never been a better time to buy.


The General Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, **PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE.** Ask in stores for full details.

Our 5-Year Warranty is really special. Besides giving you peace of mind, if after 5 years you don't make a claim you can get your warranty money back in full. Ask in stores for full details.

THE GEMSET PRICE: The stores in South Wales do not show window

COMET

EASY WAYS TO PAY
 Write or Call! The way you can spread the cost of any purchase (subject to credit review).

Have your credit card to hand and
Dial-a-Phone now on Freephone
0800 00 00 77
24 Hours 
Dial-a-Phone
limited offer subject to status, availability and a 12 month

COMET

NOW OPEN AN HOUR EARLIER WEEKDAYS FROM 9AM - 8PM

For local store details see Takeaway CM4 p425 or phone free on 0300 425 425 or visit our web site at: www.comet.co.uk

THE COMET PRICE: The stores in South Wales do not show savings in store. All items subject to availability. *Example - Buy Now Pay 12 months later! Cash price £999.00 Deposit 10% = £99.90 No further payments for up to 12 months after the purchase date. Balance £900.00 to pay over the next 12 months monthly interest @ APRIL Total amount payable as cash price or 6 month payments of £84.44 commencing 12 months after purchase date **APR 29.9%**. Total amount payable £1717.10. Please remember that Comet's credit agreements require you to produce 2 methods of identification on application. Credit is subject to status and cannot be guaranteed. Comet is a licensed credit provider for its services. Comet Group Plc, George Street, Hull. Prices and information current at time of going to press 01.07.98. ¹/£1717.10. ²/£1717.10. ³/£1717.10. ⁴/£1717.10. ⁵/£1717.10. ⁶/£1717.10. ⁷/£1717.10. ⁸/£1717.10. ⁹/£1717.10. ¹⁰/£1717.10. ¹¹/£1717.10. ¹²/£1717.10.

مكتبة من الأصل

River jump fan died in leap from car park

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who jumped off river bridges for a hobby was killed when he leapt from the top of a multi-storey car park into three feet of water.

Mark Humphrey had "a passion" for his pastime, friends told an inquest yesterday. He had dived from every bridge in the centre of Norwich over the River Wensum, sometimes in front of crowds.

PC Paul Ray said he saw Mr Humphrey, 34, pacing "nonchalantly" along the top ledge of the car park 70ft above the river on April 24. "He appeared calm and focused on what he was doing. He took two full steps backwards, ran forwards and jumped."

Before he jumped he shouted to the officers asking how deep the water was, the inquest heard. "He opened up his arms and legs as if to make a star shape out of his body. He hit the river in a flat position," added PC Ray.

Mr Humphrey, a sheet metal worker, from Norwich, died from drowning or cardiac arrest. The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A MAN left a young mother permanently disabled when he stabbed her in the head while she was Christmas shopping.

Joanne Davies, a 20-year-old hairdresser, was in a coma for two days after being attacked while out with her boyfriend and five-month-old baby on Christmas Eve last year. As a result of her injuries she missed her son's first Christmas and has not been able to cuddle him properly.

After Shane Doyle was sentenced to 6½ years in jail, Alan Davies, Joanne's father, said he was "bitterly disappointed" that he had got off so lightly.

Swansea Crown Court was told that Mr Doyle, a 25-year-old builder with a string of convictions for violence, theft and motoring offences, stabbed Miss Davies after an altercation in a supermarket car park.

He had shouted "Imbecile" at her boyfriend, Mark Duignan, after complaining that they had parked too close to the car in which he was a

Jail for car passenger who stabbed woman in head



Mark Duignan and Joanne Davies, who was attacked by Shane Doyle, right

passenger. A few minutes later he had attacked them at a roundabout in the main square in Pembroke.

Huw Rees, for the prosecution, told the court that Doyle "jumped out and forced Mr Duignan to pull up by walking in front of his car". He had screamed abuse at them and Miss Davies had got out of the car in panic.

Doyle had approached her and she had struck out because she feared she was going to be attacked.

Mr Rees said Miss Davies did not see the 7in knife Doyle was holding. "The blow did not make contact with Doyle, but he struck at her head. Joanne felt a severe pain and blinding headache. Blood poured out of the wound and she was knocked backwards."

Miss Davies had been admitted to the intensive care unit at Morriston Hospital in Swansea, where a scan had revealed a large blood clot in her brain. For several weeks

she had been paralysed down her left side and still had a weakness in her arm and leg.

Mr Rees said: "She is missing her normal mother's contact with her baby because she is unable to hold or cuddle him. It is feared this could be permanent damage and there is also a risk of epilepsy. She is still undergoing regular physiotherapy."

Doyle, of Pembroke, admitted wounding with intent and attempting to pervert the

course of justice. Simon Evans, the driver of the car in which he was a passenger, told police that Doyle, who always carried a knife, had tried to persuade him to say that he was not in the car.

Interviewed by police, Doyle, who had been drinking, admitted carrying the knife but said Miss Davies must have fallen on it.

Mr Justice Keene said: "It is clear you became enraged over a minor incident and, as a result, you forced the car to stop. It was an attack with a knife on an unarmed woman, which was a form of road rage. She could well have died and may well suffer a permanent disability."

Doyle, originally from Manchester, was also in breach of an 18-month suspended sentence for theft and assault on a policeman.

After the case, Mr Davies said: "Considering the severity of the incident and the trauma of last Christmas, he has got off exceptionally lightly. With his list of convictions he should have been jailed for a minimum of ten years."

THIS SATURDAY in THE TIMES

meet **HARRISON FORD**

Herbie Hancock

PLUS On reforming the **HEAD HUNTERS**

FREE WITH THE SATURDAY TIMES

Lonely hearts rapist faces a life sentence

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A DOUBLE rapist whose violent mood swings were likened to Jekyll and Hyde was warned yesterday that he faces a life sentence after being convicted of attacking two women, one of whom he met through an advertisement in a lonely hearts column.

George Hayes, 25, was violent, sexually deviant, manipulative and a highly plausible liar. "He is a very dangerous man and poses a substantial risk, in particular to women," Judge Graham Boal said at the Old Bailey.

He remanded Hayes for medical and psychiatric reports before sentence on September 4. The judge said Hayes had "not only raped two young women over a period of hours, while imprisoning them — but subjected them to extreme and unpredictable violence."

Judge Boal said that, if the jury accepted the women's evidence, "as they clearly did, then this man must have exhibited the symptoms attributed to Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde."

His first victim was a trainee solicitor, whom he met through a lonely hearts column. Three months later — on

bail accused of her rape — Hayes raped a student after offering to help her find accommodation, Andrew Campbell, for the prosecution, had told the court.

Hayes, from Stoke Newington, North London, had denied falsely imprisoning and raping both women last year.

His advertisement in the Soul Mates section of *The Guardian* was seen by the trainee solicitor, in her 20s. After a series of conversations, they met. On their next meeting they had sex with her consent. When she then said that she wanted to sleep, Hayes punched a wall mirror before he bit, slapped and repeatedly raped the woman.

He was still on bail last September when he met a foreign student trying to find a room. He advised the 21-year-old to go to a local hotel. Inside her room, he grabbed her by the throat, threw her against the wall, then raped her.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust said: "People should be extremely careful about meeting people through lonely hearts ads. They should be wary of giving out personal details and be careful to always meet in a public place."

UP TO 50% OFF SELECTED WRIGHTON KITCHENS.

PLUS FREE CANDY MICROWAVE
worth £395 when you spend over £700 on Candy appliances.

PLUS FREE CANDY DISHWASHER
worth £425 when you spend over £4,000 on Wrighton kitchen units or half-price when you spend over £2,000.

PLUS FREE DELIVERY
We'll even plan your kitchen with you and deliver it free to your home.

PLUS BUY NOW AND PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999
You don't have to pay anything for 6 months, not even a deposit.

EXPERT INSTALLATION SERVICE
Our installation service offers professional fitting for your kitchen, including plumbing, gas and electricity.

WRIGHTON KITCHENS ARE AVAILABLE AT SELECTED HOMEBASE STORES. FOR SHOWROOM DETAILS TELEPHONE 0645 801 800.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

HOMEBASE

www.homebase.co.uk MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM*

24.9% APR variable

*Opening times may vary. Certain stores open until 10pm Monday to Friday. 11 stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-5pm. Certain other stores open 11am-5pm. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store. *The kitchens included in this promotion are: 30% off the new Premier Carcase, 30% off the new Premier Carcase, 30% off the new Premier Carcase, 30% off the new Premier Carcase. The fully fitted ranges in this promotion are 30% off the new Premier Carcase, 30% off the new Premier Carcase, 30% off the new Premier Carcase, 30% off the new Premier Carcase. Fully fitted kitchens are subject to survey, additional work such as tiling, additional sockets, plastering, lighting and old kitchen disposal are not included. Full details available in-store. **Candy integrated Dishwasher model DW160 costs £425 when purchased separately (includes food). Candy built-in Microwave model CM135 costs £395 when purchased separately. ***In January 1999 pay in full or take credit. Wrighton quotations on request from Homebase Limited, Beddington House, Watlington, Surrey SM6 0HS. Homebase are licensed credit brokers. Loans subject to status and approval and are not available to anyone under 21 years. Example a kitchen costing £1500. Pay in 36 monthly repayments of £57.62. Total amount repayable £2,074.32 (24.9% APR variable). Spend & Save Cards cannot be used on kitchen purchases. Products and offers may vary in Ireland and Eire.

The Open University

What can the Open University do for you?

We can give you a recognised BA, BSc or postgraduate degree like any other University, but you don't have to give up work to do it.

Just as importantly the Open University can open up a whole new world of interests, challenges and achievements. There are over 150 courses to choose from in arts, science, social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, English law, business management, education, and health and social welfare.

If you are 18 or over and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are needed for most undergraduate courses.

Through OU supported open learning you don't go away to the Open University, it comes to you. There's no need to give up work, or build your social life around evening classes.

You learn through specially written texts and audio/video materials, radio and TV programmes, computer software and home kits for some science and technology subjects.

Your own personal tutor, a subject specialist, will guide you through your studies, setting regular assignments which are marked and returned to you, and providing encouragement by phone and tutorials. Some courses also have week-long residential schools.

You can also contact one of 13 Regional Centres throughout the UK for help and advice.

The flexible way to learn You're free to plan your own degree — so, for example, you can study modern art and computer studies as part of the same degree. You can also take a single course on its own. And if you return to study later, your previous examination pass will count towards your qualification.

Find out more today Over 2 million people have studied with the Open University and another 11,400 people will gain their BA or BSc degrees this year. To find out how you can join them, use the coupon or call today.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 255, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

☐ Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diploma and BA/BSc Degrees prospectus.

☐ Please send me a copy of your postgraduate prospectus.

☐ I have contacted the OU before. Yes/No.

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of birth _____ (DD/MM/YY)

Tel _____

OU Hotline (24 hours) 0870 9000 301

<http://www.open.ac.uk/adverts/>

The Open University opens minds, opens doors

Pilgrims find peace at shrine to Diana

PHOTOGRAPHS: MAX NASH AND JOHN GILES/PA



The gates of Earl Spencer's family home opened on what would have been the Princess's 37th birthday to admit 2,400 people yesterday. Many of the first arrivals headed first for the lakeside shrine facing her island grave

THE faithful had their first opportunity yesterday to worship at the temple of Diana. Unanimously, they pronounced it tasteful, restrained and moving, a place of unhappy memories but also of peace.

These were the dedicated, who had waited for hours on jammed telephone lines when tickets to see Earl Spencer's memorial to his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales, first went on sale. Yesterday, on what would have been her 37th birthday, they were up before dawn in Plymouth and Norfolk, Gloucestershire and Wigan, for the pilgrimage to Althorp and the first public viewing of the Princess's grave and the new museum of her brief, sparkling life.

Twelve hundred were admitted in the morning at up to £9.50 a head and another £3 for the catalogue, and a similar number in the afternoon. The Earl was on hand to greet them and to share memories as, high above their heads, the Spencer family flag hung limply at half-mast on the

Althorp roof. "I had to be here on this day," Lord Spencer said. "I am deeply touched by the messages of support from all these people here."

Many of the early arrivals made straight for a view of the island grave, saving the tour of house and museum for later. They laid their flowers at the lakeside shrine, a wooden Doric temple that has been at Althorp since the 18th century, and which has now been embellished with marble plaques bearing quotations from the Princess and her brother and a marble silhouette of her.

The pile of flowers with their handwritten messages grew throughout the day, but it was tiny compared with the mountains that piled before Kensington Palace last September. The numbers admitted to Althorp are restricted, to preserve some tranquillity; besides, grief has mellowed to a quieter reverence. They sat on the dozen

oak benches surrounding the oval lake, nursing their flasks of tea and gazing at the tree-covered island where the grave is hidden by greenery but where a stone urn with a carved representation of an eternal flame sprouts beneath an ancient oak. Around the lake are

oak benches surrounding the oval lake, nursing their flasks of tea and gazing at the tree-covered island where the grave is hidden by greenery but where a stone urn with a carved representation of an eternal flame sprouts beneath an ancient oak. Around the lake are

oak benches surrounding the oval lake, nursing their flasks of tea and gazing at the tree-covered island where the grave is hidden by greenery but where a stone urn with a carved representation of an eternal flame sprouts beneath an ancient oak. Around the lake are

Princess on any of them. Caroline Auster and her daughter, Mariette, from Braintree, Essex, laid a posy of pink silk roses at the shrine. "Lord Spencer has done Diana proud; this is a really, really nice place. I wanted so much to come today, because it is my birthday

Princess on any of them. Caroline Auster and her daughter, Mariette, from Braintree, Essex, laid a posy of pink silk roses at the shrine. "Lord Spencer has done Diana proud; this is a really, really nice place. I wanted so much to come today, because it is my birthday

Princess on any of them. Caroline Auster and her daughter, Mariette, from Braintree, Essex, laid a posy of pink silk roses at the shrine. "Lord Spencer has done Diana proud; this is a really, really nice place. I wanted so much to come today, because it is my birthday

realised how much she meant to us. I had to bring the children here; Diana is on television so much, they still can't believe she's dead."

Lord Spencer has spent £3 million creating the memorial, most of it on converting Althorp's stable block into a dark, restrained museum of her life. Its rooms heavy with taped background music. Glass cases contain memorabilia of her childhood, including her school dictionary, her collection of china animals and a school report

from the age of 12, which sums her up: "Diana has been outstandingly helpful this term. She has proved herself efficient and a good organiser. If only she would put the same enthusiasm into her work, she could move mountains."

In another case is a Christmas

card from 1980, bearing one of the sender's own watercolours and the handwritten inscription: "Much love from your tap-dancing partner - Charles." Yesterday the Prince of Wales toured a housing project in Charing Cross Road, London. Prince William was said to be at home after finishing his examinations at Eton and Prince Harry was at Ludgrove School. St James's Palace declined to say whether the Prince and his sons would visit the museum.

The longest queues at Althorp were for that part of the exhibition devoted to the Princess's clothes. Her wedding dress is displayed with the Spencer diara, and another room contains 28 of her outfits, from evening dresses to the Ralph Lauren casuals she wore to inspect landmines of Angola.

"I was so moved when I saw the black dress she wore to the Tate Gallery on her 36th birthday - it

turned out to be her last public engagement," Carolyn Bramble-Chapman, from Norfolk, said. The room is dominated by one of several video screens throughout the museum, this one showing the Princess with her sons at Thorpe Park enjoying a rollercoaster ride, and ending with her laughing at the thrill of it. "That's the best bit of all, because that's how we remember her," Mrs Bramble-Chapman said.

The display ends with some 200 of the 9,300 books of condolences from around the world that were sent to Kensington Palace, along with 525,000 letters and messages.

But the atmosphere among yesterday's visitors as they finished their tour and made for the 70p doughnuts and 90p coffee in the cafe was far from funereal. Like people recalling the death of Kennedy, the sisterhood of Diana slipped their coffee in the warm morning air and exchanged reminiscences of exactly how they first heard the news that so deeply affected them.

Alan Hamilton joins the first visitors taking flowers and memories to Althorp museum

I had to bring the children here; Diana is on television so much, they still can't believe she's dead

too," Mrs Auster said. "I spent a whole day on the phone trying to get tickets."

Karen MacGibbon and her children, Lee and Jade, added their yellow chrysanthemums. "We wanted to see where Diana grew up. It wasn't until she died that we

Oil drum hurled into protester's home

By PAUL WILKINSON

A DRUM of diesel oil has been flung through the cottage window of a partly blind bachelor who won a court victory stopping a parish council from uprooting a 200-year-old hedge.

Under cover of darkness, the five-gallon plastic drum was hurled through the sitting-room window of Colin Seymour's home at Flamborough, East Yorkshire. The drum had been weighted with a chain and pierced in several places to allow the thick fuel to spray out over the room.

Humbly Grove Police are investigating a possible link between the attack and Mr Seymour's battle with Flamborough Parish Council over its plans to grub out the hedge to make way for a bowling green. Many villagers were unhappy with the decision, even though the green has since been laid elsewhere.

Mr Seymour, 64, a former teacher who has won more

than 80 court actions to defend the environment against developers and industrialists, said: "I had a feeling something like this might happen one day."

"I was away from home that night, together with my dog, Fred. Had we been at home, Fred would have been sleeping beneath that very window and would have been doused in diesel and flying glass. This could easily have resulted in loss of life."

He estimates the cost of repairs and replacing ruined carpets, furniture and decorations to be at least £2,000. Emergency services had to be called to clear diesel spill on the road outside.

In January last year Judge Thomas Cracknell ruled at Hull County Court that the hedge was protected by the 1765 Enclosure Act and that the parish had a duty to maintain it for ever. The council faces a bill for court



Colin Seymour and the broken window yesterday

costs estimated at £15,000, awarded after Mr Seymour and supporters from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust returned in April to complain about a breach of the ruling.

A parish council contractor instructed to clear rubbish from the hedge instead dug

out one side, exposing roots, and made a 12ft gap. The council agreed to sign an undertaking not to cause further damage and to ensure that the hedge was maintained. Judge Cracknell described Flamborough's handling of the case as ill-judged

and said they had acted in a "desultory and unhelpful way" in setting up its maintenance agreement.

The judgment in January 1997 was hailed as a decision that would protect up to 40,000 miles of hedgerow all over England. Judge Cracknell conceded: "He might be a hero to some, but to others he is the villain of the piece and a thorough nuisance."

Mr Seymour, who is also partially deaf and lives on invalidity benefit, said yesterday that "mindless violence" would not deter him from continuing his campaigns. He appealed for anyone who saw the incident or had information to contact the police. He said: "There must have been more than one person and they must have had a vehicle."

Robert Forrester, chief executive of the wildlife trust, said: "If some people think they can prevent environmentalists from upholding the law by bully-boy tactics and intimidation, they are badly mistaken."

Artist gives rare baby birds a ring

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THREE fledgling ospreys, some of Britain's rarest birds, were briefly removed from their nest at the top of a 60ft Scots pine yesterday so they could be measured and ringed.

Keith Brodie, a wildlife artist, used a three-stage ladder to climb the tree at the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Loch of Lowes Nature Reserve near Dunkeld, Tayside, and clamber into the nest, which is about 6ft in diameter. Each bird was placed in an individual cloth bag and then lowered on a rope to the ground, where the ringing was carried out.

Alan Barclay, the full-time ranger at the reserve, said: "These young ospreys are about five weeks old now. They are very well grown and look to be in excellent condition."

Councils 'forced into land deals'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities are being forced to earmark land for new housing, much of it on greenfield sites, decades before it is needed, a pressure group claims today.

A report by the Council for the Protection of Rural England says that the Government is locking county councils into inflexible long-term building programmes based on inflated forecasts of housing requirements.

This "predict and provide" approach has led to large areas of countryside being allocated unnecessarily for development while towns and cities are allowed to decay, it says.

Tony Burton, the council's assistant director for policy, said: "Our report highlights the serious flaws in the planning system and the bureaucratic inertia preventing

change and new thinking which can only be overcome by root and branch reform."

The report claims that 800,000 of the 900,000 new homes planned in southeast England between 1991 and 2016 have either been built already or have had sites chosen for them less than a third of the way through the 25-year planning period.

"With so much land in the pipeline, developers have no incentive to use brownfield [urban] sites and local authorities find it difficult to control either the rate or location of new building," it says.

Refurbishment and better use of the existing housing stock could meet much of the demand for new homes, it suggests. It estimates that there are twice as many empty houses in England as there are houses in Birmingham.

Lowest prices for the highest specs. No contest.

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R400

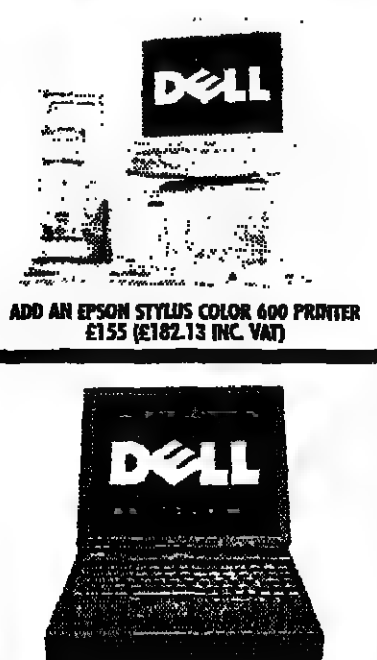
- INTEL® PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 400MHZ
- INTEL™ 440BX AGPset
- 512MB INTERNAL CACHE
- 1.5GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
- DIAMOND PERMEDIA 2 2MB AGP VIDEO CARD
- HIGH PERFORMANCE 19" COLOUR TCO95 SVGA MONITOR (10.26 DOT PITCH, 17.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PQ/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32 X CD-ROM DRIVE
- TUNITE BRACH MONTEGO A3D 64 VOICE PCI SOUND CARD AND AITEK LAUSING ACS 495 DOLBY SURROUND SOUND SPEAKERS WITH SUBWOOFER
- US ROBOTICS 56 KB/s MODEM
- MINI TOWER CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95® OR WINDOWS 95
- MICROSOFT® OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

£1,599 (£1,914.08 INC. VAT)

DELL INSPIRON™ 3200 D233 XT

- MOBILE INTEL® PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 333MHZ
- 12.3" XGA (1024X768) TFT COLOUR DISPLAY
- 32MB RAM
- 512MB HIGH PERFORMANCE CACHE
- 2.2GB AIX-33 HARD DRIVE
- 24 X 800MB CD-ROM DRIVE AND 3.5" FLOPPY DISK DRIVES
- EXTRA HIGH PERFORMANCE 128-BIT PCI GRAPHICS CONTROLLER WITH 2MB VIDEO RAM
- BREVIAED COMMUNICATION PORT (IRDA 1.1 COMPATIBLE)
- ZOOMED VIDEO SUPPORT
- 2 CARDBUS PERCIA TYPE II SLOTS OR 1 TYPE III
- INTEGRATED SYNAPTICS TOUCHPAD
- USB PORT
- LITHIUM ION "INTELLIGENT" BATTERY
- MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION
- EXECUTIVE CARRY CASE

£1,699 (£2,031.58 INC. VAT)



ADD AN EPSON STYLUS COLOR 600 PRINTER £155 (£182.13 INC. VAT)



Both these systems featured here are simply unbeatable. The Dell Dimension XPS R400 is a highly featured multimedia powerhouse. And how can you miss this Incredible notebook offer: the Dell Inspiron 3200 D233XT is packed with all the features you demand from a mobile PC. So look no further, pick up the phone or get online to the world's largest direct PC manufacturer*

at www.dell.com/uk/buydell. You won't find better specs for less.

*Systems with Windows 98 to be delivered after scheduled Microsoft release date of June 25th subject to availability.

Source: IDC

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER LINE
0 8 7 0 1 5 2 4 6 2 0
BETWEEN 9AM & 5PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM TO 5PM SAT, 12PM TO 5PM SUN

To order online 24 hours:
www.dell.com/uk/buydell



Austria seeks to slow down EU expansion

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN VIENNA

AUSTRIA replaced Britain yesterday in the chair of the European Union and made clear that it would use the presidency to fight for harmonising taxes and to slow the opening of the EU frontiers to the former Communist states on its doorstep.

Viktor Klima, the Social Democratic Chancellor, shares Tony Blair's emphasis on advancing the EU's employment schemes, but the other priorities for his six months at the EU helm are far removed from those of the British Government.

History and geography explain much of this presidential lurch. The priorities of a big, free-trading Atlantic island have given way to those of a small and prosperous frontier country that is worried about being trampled in a westward rush by poor neighbours. For different reasons, both have quite Eurosceptic publics.

Although Herr Klima played down expectations, a sense of Austria's imperial grandeur pervaded the launch of its first presidency since it joined the EU in 1995. The Chancellor and his ministers sketched their ambitions in the white-and-gold chamber where Metternich chaired the Congress of Vienna that recast the map of Europe in 1815. The ceiling holes built for the spies of the Imperial Chancellor are still "in working order. The deadlines for the big reforms on EU spending will not come until the German presidency next spring, but Austria is determined to make its mark while also convincing its own, heavily Eurosceptic population of EU benefits.

The governing coalition of Socialists and Conservatives is eager to stop "unfair" tax competition once the single currency is launched on January 1, with Austria as one of its members. "There is no question that the Euro will create pressure for better co-ordination of economic and fiscal policy," Herr Klima said. It was "essential to stop the spiral of competition to a zero level of taxation". Austria is promoting a scheme, launched by the Commission and backed by France and others but opposed by Britain, to levy a minimum rate of 20 per cent on the income of savings and investments held outside the country of residence. Senior EU officials are to meet in Vienna this month to develop the plan. With some of the highest tax levels in the EU and still burdened by bureaucracy, Austria also wants "minimum" taxes on corporate profits, an area in which the EU agreed on a code of conduct last year. While much of the EU supports moves to set minimum levels for taxes, with the exception of personal income tax, the approach is resisted by Britain, Germany and others. Any change in EU taxation policy requires unanimous backing of the 15 states.

Austria is also keen to see an EU-wide tax on carbon pollution, a scheme that does not find wide favour in Europe. Vienna also aims to convince the EU of the need to avoid any rapid opening of the Eastern borders when the former Communist states win membership some time in the next five years or so. Herr Klima and his team insist that expanding the Union is a vital project with great long-term benefits, but Austria stands to suffer because of its 850-mile frontier with Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovenia. Once the frontiers are open, up to 300,000 foreign workers are forecast to move to Austria. A long transition period must be imposed on the new states to stop a flood of people and cheap farm produce, say the

Austrians. "We have to recognise the special fears of the people. Austria has the longest land borders with Eastern Europe," said Herr Klima.

The Government's response to popular fears has been spurred by the success of Jörg Haider and his right-wing Austrian Freedom Party. Though damaged of late by a party corruption scandal, Herr Haider is sounding a popular note with his warnings of the danger to Austria from a rapid EU expansion.

Sitting yesterday in the café of Vienna's Imperial Hotel, he rammed home the message. "If we open the border, we will have a wave of immigrants coming in to take the jobs of Austrians. This has to be cleared up before enlargement." The Government had indicated this week that it wanted a ten-year transition period before Hungarians, Czechs and the others could freely cross present EU frontiers. Herr Haider's party, which has the backing of about a quarter of the population, believes the period should be from 15 to 20 years.

Herr Haider said: "We are in a very difficult situation. Having the presidency we are obliged to enforce enlargement." Government ministers last night dismissed Herr Haider as yesterday's man.

Vienna's presidential priorities are far removed from those of Britain



Viktor Klima, the Austrian Chancellor, wants the EU to expand but fears a flood of migrants across the frontiers with Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovenia

WORLD SUMMARY

Kiriyenko tax reform approved

Moscow: The Russian Government yesterday overcame the first hurdle in its efforts to secure parliamentary approval for a series of austerity measures aimed at overcoming the current economic crisis (Robin Lodge writes).

The State Duma approved the first reading of a Bill cutting taxes on profits from 35 per cent to 30 per cent, part of a major overhaul of the tax system aimed at reducing the widespread practice of evasion and profit concealment.

But despite an appeal to the assembly from Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, for swift endorsement of the Government's recovery programme, the deputies made it plain that they were in no hurry and would consider each aspect of the austerity package on its merits.

Rebels say they killed singer

Algiers: The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has claimed responsibility for the killing of Marouf Lounes, the Berber singer, according to a statement from the group. The murder last week of the singer, an outspoken democrat and critic of Islamist rebels, sparked riots in which at least four Berber protesters were killed and scores wounded. At least five more people were killed in two bomb attacks in Algiers and Medea. (Reuters)

German amnesia

Hamburg: Nearly a third of Germans aged between 14 and 18 have never heard of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz and 12 per cent believe Hitler survived the Second World War, a Forsa Institute survey found. Fifty-nine per cent of the 506 polled had never heard of the Kristallnacht pogroms against Jewish property and synagogues in 1938. (AFP)

Full house blues

Tirana: Bingo and alcohol were cited as the deciding factor in half of all divorce cases lodged in Albanian courts over the past three months. Adultery and violence accounted for under a third of all complaints. (Reuters)

Galina Brezhnev, wild woman of the stagnant years, dies at 69



Galina embraces her father Leonid Brezhnev on his 70th birthday in 1976. They shared a love of fast cars

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE death of Galina Brezhnev, the daughter of the former Soviet leader, has revived memories of her extravagant lifestyle and love affairs during the so-called "era of stagnation" in the 1970s.

Galina, who was 69, is understood to have suffered a stroke and died on Tuesday in a Moscow hospital.

During Leonid Brezhnev's heyday, Galina enjoyed her privileged status to the full. She shared her father's love for fast cars and could be seen driving at high speed around Moscow in a Mercedes. Such a sight would turn few heads in today's new Russia - Moscow is said to have more Mercedes than Berlin - but in those

days any imported car, let alone a luxury model, was a rarity.

By the mid-1970s she had gained a reputation as a hostess of wild parties that often progressed into bacchanalia, with couples entwined on floors as the vodka and champagne flowed. While not graced with the best of looks - indeed, she bore an uncannily close resemblance to her father - this did not apparently deter her from satisfying what was reputed to be a voracious sexual appetite.

At 22, she ran off with an acrobat, beginning an association with the circus that lasted for many years. Her most notorious association was with a magician, whom she married only to have their union annulled three days later on the orders of her enraged father. Brezhnev was also reported to

have dismissed the man who officiated at the wedding.

For a brief period she appeared to have settled down after her marriage to a policeman, Yuri Churbanov, then head of the KGB. In his own brief tenure as Soviet leader, he began the process of rooting out corruption among the party elite.

It was this process that led to the arrest of Churbanov for embezzlement and taking bribes. In 1988 he was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment with the confiscation of property. Galina was left virtually destitute. But a court ruling in 1990 ordered much of the property, including a country house and a Mercedes, returned to her, and she spent the rest of her days in relative wealth and comfort, living in a Moscow flat with her daughter and granddaughter, who survive her.

subsequently arrested and jailed for five years for smuggling.

The case was widely seen as being instigated by Yuri Andropov, then head of the KGB. In his own brief tenure as Soviet leader, he began the process of rooting out corruption among the party elite.

It was this process that led to the arrest of Churbanov for embezzlement and taking bribes. In 1988 he was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment with the confiscation of property. Galina was left virtually destitute. But a court ruling in 1990 ordered much of the property, including a country house and a Mercedes, returned to her, and she spent the rest of her days in relative wealth and comfort, living in a Moscow flat with her daughter and granddaughter, who survive her.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

HOT STUFF

Bikinis to send temperatures soaring

Plus:

Princess Anne has a right royal makeover

Why the great British seaside is where the hip hang out

This weekend in Style

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

"With British Gas Home Insurance we saved £68 on our gas bill"

The Wheatcroft family, Hants.

"It was good news for us when we insured our home with British Gas Home Insurance. Not only did we get 1/3rd of our premium back, but we were able to choose how we spent it."

1/3rd back guaranteed

You can use your refund to cut the cost of your British Gas bill or to save money on other British Gas products and services. Or select valuable Goldfish points, redeemable against a wide range of everyday essentials.

No need to wait for renewal, call now.

So why wait to get 1/3rd back guaranteed? Save now!

Just complete and return the coupon or call FREE, quoting the 1/3rd back code from the coupon below, on 0800 9 15 14 13. We're waiting to take your call.

Call us now FREE on **0800 9 15 14 13**

Please post in an envelope FREE of charge to: British Gas Home Insurance, FREEPOST NEA 3944, LEEDS LS1 1YV. Or call FREE on 0800 9 15 14 13.

Your name (Mr, Mrs, Ms): _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Insurance type: ☐ Standard ☐ Comprehensive

Daytime Tel: _____ Evening Tel: _____ Best time to call: _____

Would you like us to contact you now? ☐ Yes ☐ No or a few weeks before renewal?

British Gas Home Insurance

An idea you'll warm to

HUGE SINGS ON RECORDS, MUSIC, DOWNDOWN PHONE 0900 14976 David Street, King's Cross, 003909 going to press.

FROM TOM WALKER IN HADE

A police lieutenant, Zoran Janic, showed reporters a snaking, 200-yard KLA trench dug round the hilltop crested by Hade. The fortifications looked down on Obilic village, the Kosovo A and B power stations and the Dobro Selo mine. Lieutenant Janic described how it took Serb police more than 24 hours to advance up the hill: what he left unsaid is that the ascent was obviously made possible only by a continuous bombardment of Hade

Veljko Odalovic, Kosovo's Serb governor, predicted more Serb offensives will begin soon, among them an operation to retake the Pristina-Pec highway — which would include ending the KLA siege of Kijevo, the police checkpoint and village cited by Richard Holbrooke, the US envoy, as the province's most loaded trowire.



BY LAWRENCE FELDMAN

COMMENTARY

It has also added to the caution of the Western leaders. They are wary of becoming de facto allies of the KLA. As Amnesty International has observed, the KLA has also been responsible for some vicious attacks on civilians. Support for secessionists comes firmly under the heading of a dangerous precedent in a part of the world where the tendency towards fragmentation is powerful.

If this assessment is correct, then Mr Milosevic has a real incentive to cut an early deal. If a deal remains elusive, then conflict is destined to become even more bitter and widespread.

□ Lawrence Freedman is Professor of War Studies at King's College London



In yesterday's account, McVeigh's father William portrayed his son as a bright person who could never quite succeed in school or at sports. As an adult, Mr McVeigh said, his son bounced from job to job because he could not stand pressure, take orders or handle responsibility. In one letter, McVeigh disclosed that in 1993 he contemplated suicide.

LISON

APPELL
ESTD. 1970
A. MAGNOLIA

Make another day your
most active, productive
day and available to
you for tomorrow!

3

**HUGE
SINGS ON
BOARDS,
ET MUSIC,
ODDWIN**

**PHONE
NDON
74976**

003909

Good Street,
gling Centre.

going to press.

Pakistan 'had plan for first strike on India'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN officials said yesterday that the FBI had interviewed a defectoring Pakistani nuclear physicist who claims Islamabad asked its scientists to prepare for a first nuclear strike against India.

Ifkhar Chaudhry Khan, who is seeking asylum in the United States, has told agents in New York that he fled fearing that the Government was considering a nuclear attack on Indian targets.

Mr Khan is prepared to provide detailed information about the Pakistani nuclear programme and the assistance given by China to build a reactor that produces plutonium for nuclear weapons. "He has been interviewed by the FBI and they are still assessing the claims he has made," said a US official.

Michael Wildes, the scientist's New York lawyer, confirmed last night that Mr Khan was seeking asylum and said that his wife remained in Pakistan against her will.

If Mr Khan's allegations are confirmed they will reveal just how close Pakistan and India had come to nuclear confrontation before deciding to begin nuclear tests in May. Each conducted as many as five tests against the will of

many in the international community, including America, which issued a warning that the explosions would merely accelerate the arms race in South Asia.

Pakistan has long been concerned about India's intentions and, after Delhi exploded a device in the Rajasthan desert, Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's Prime Minister, telephoned Tony Blair and President Clinton to express his concern. It has emerged since that senior Islamabad Government members were convinced they were about to be attacked by India.

Mr Khan, who left Pakistan before the tests, arriving in New York at the end of May, said that he and four other scientists had decided to go after attending a top secret meeting in April that discussed the country's nuclear strategy in the wake of the militant Hindu party's ascent to power in India.

He is the only purported defector to have arrived in America, and mystery surrounds the fate of the other four whom he claimed had fled to Britain. British diplomats in Washington said yesterday they had "drawn a blank" in attempts to discover

the whereabouts of the other purported defectors but were still looking into the matter.

The five, whom Mr Khan said had signed a protest letter against a first-strike by Pakistan, reportedly escaped despite attempts by Pakistan's intelligence agency to stop them.

Pakistani officials have denied that any scientists have left and called the allegations of plans for a pre-emptive strike against India "particularly malicious".

Gohar Ayub Khan, the Foreign Minister, earlier this week said he knew of no defections and described the report as far-fetched.

At 29, Mr Khan is unlikely to have been a senior official in the nuclear programme. But he has produced a copy of photo identification naming him as an assistant research officer with the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission at Khushab.

In an interview published yesterday by *USA Today*, he said a 50 megawatt reactor at Khushab has produced enough plutonium to make a nuclear weapon, but claimed that Pakistan's programme "still needs assistance from other countries".



Police block anti-Jiang demonstrators in Hong Kong carrying a coffin with the date June 4, 1989, when Tiananmen protesters were massacred

Jiang stays upbeat in Hong Kong gloom

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

NO FIREWORKS lit the sky over Hong Kong last night, and there was a dispirited sense that the territory is still heading downhill, at least in the economy, as low-key, low-cost celebrations were staged to mark the anniversary of its handover from Britain to China.

At a restrained ceremony, attended by President Jiang Zemin of China, Tung Chee

hwa, the Chief Executive, gave a grim assessment of the economic whirlwind that has hit the territory of 6.6 million people.

"Hong Kong has been dealt a severe blow and our people have suffered a lot," he said soberly, speaking in a heavily guarded stadium. The former shipping magnate pledged his administration would do its best to help the population overcome the difficulties caused by the East Asia financial crisis and "lead them on

the road to happiness". But for a now gloomy public hitherto used to shopping in brand-name boutiques, taking holidays abroad and driving expensive cars, Mr Tung's predictions of "a long, hard road to recovery, with no hope for an economic turnaround this year" was scarcely likely to lighten the atmosphere.

Opinion polls show Hong Kong residents, worried about growing unemployment and a tumbling stock market, believe Mr Tung and his administration have handled the crisis badly. Although the economic downturn was not of Hong Kong's making, there is a sense that the previous British administration would have managed it better than Mr Tung, who has seemed bumbling and indecisive, observers say.

In line with the downcast mood and the creeping austerity, fireworks displays, which lit the night sky for two successive nights at the glittering handover last year, were cancelled.

Apart from a few banners saying "Happy Anniversary", and the fact that this was a public holiday here, there were few signs that anything memorable was occurring. Many bars and restaurants where celebratory banquets were held a year ago and toasts drunk in champagne have closed down. There were few tourists around this year

compared to the handover crowds a year ago, given a massive tourism slump. Hong Kong's capitalists might have been surprised when China's Communist leader began his speech at the anniversary ceremony: "Comrades, greetings to you." Comrade is not a word with much currency here.

But Mr Jiang, in celebrating the anniversary of Chinese rule, seemed to be trying to encourage the dispirited Mr Tung. "I am confident Hong

port for the Hong Kong dollar. Given the parlous state of China's own economy, they may be grasping at straws, analysts believe.

Observers say that, though there have been some subtle changes since the handover in Hong Kong's political life and some favours granted to Chinese institutions and personalities, Beijing has earned high marks for not interfering in Hong Kong's affairs in the overt way that was feared.

After Mr Jiang's arrival on Tuesday, police spotted and chased three gunmen near the venue where he was attending an anniversary banquet last night. But the gunmen, who escaped, were thought to be gangster Triad members taken by surprise rather than an assassination team.

Another group of demonstrators set fire to a mock coffin and battled with police as they tried to breach their lines outside a banquet attended by Mr Jiang. Fifty protesters attempted to throw the coffin over a police cordon outside the Hong Kong Exhibition and Conference Centre. After failing to penetrate the police blockade, they set the coffin alight.

Mr Jiang will attend the official opening ceremony today of Hong Kong's new £12 billion airport, returning to Beijing shortly afterwards, a few hours before President Clinton arrives in Hong Kong.

A downcast mood and the creeping austerity have led to the firework displays being cancelled

Kong will be able to overcome its difficulties, given its rich financial reserves, strong civil service and economic infrastructure," he said.

Ironically, many citizens of this capitalist enclave, who originally feared Beijing rule, are so disillusioned by their own post-handover administration that they see China as a source of economic security. This is especially so with Beijing's insistence that it will not devalue its own currency, the yuan, thus providing sup-

Clinton sticks to hard line on free trade for China

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN SHANGHAI

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday delivered a passionate speech in favour of free trade, but warned China that the US was not about to relax the terms on which his host could enter the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

China's membership "can only happen on strong terms, the same terms that other nations of the world abide by", Mr Clinton told business leaders in Shanghai. "Of course, there will have to be an individual agreement that recognises the transitions China must undertake, but the terms have to be clear and unambiguous."

His remarks will have dashed any hopes Chinese leaders might have entertained quietly that this trip, in which Mr Clinton has thrown himself fervently into debates at the heart of Chinese development, will have softened America's WTO position. Failure to make progress on the trade talks has been one of the acknowledged disappoint-

ments of the summit. But, given the strains which reform is about to place on China's economy, made worse by the Asian crisis, US aides say the stalemate is no surprise. The only immediate encouragement Mr Clinton could offer was that Congress appeared on the verge of renewing China's Most Favoured Nation status — the terms of trade granted most of America's trading partners. The annual vote is a constant source of annoyance to China.

The US is also offering to help to train Chinese workers made redundant from heavy industry plants that are closing across the country, as well as legal training to make courts more consistent.

Mr Clinton's remarks came during a day examining China's most capitalist face, visiting Shanghai's Stock Exchange and meeting people who had bought their homes with mortgages. The Stock Exchange, filled with investment brokers dressed in the

severe dark suits that dominated money business before Wall Street discovered Hugo Boss, gave Mr Clinton his third appearance on Chinese television. The biggest surprise of the trip, he said, was that the Government had allowed live, nationwide broadcasts of his two key speeches on state television.

In his latest appearance, he denied that America's role as the sole superpower after the Cold War meant that it was "the world cop". And he said his daughter Chelsea was longing to come back because she found Shanghai so exciting. She spent part of Tuesday night dancing in Park 97, one of the city's hottest nightclubs. Today the President visits Guilin, famous for its hairpin-shaped mountains or karsts. He will deliver a speech on the environment, a cause he has embraced on this trip as never before, then head for Hong Kong.

Risks and rewards, page 33



Orange believe your phone should work wherever you are

That's why we've installed more transmitters in more places than any other network. For more information on the network that performs better, call 0800 80 10 80.

www.orange.co.uk

Lose all your business records or save them. Guaranteed.

Statistics show that 95% of data loss results from users accidentally deleting files and that only 6% of companies survive catastrophic data loss. The revolutionary HP Colorado SGB tape drive gives you full PC system protection for just £150! Guaranteed. For full details ring HP now.



Ring 0990 474747

مکان من الاصل

UN chief lifts hopes of Abiola freedom

FROM SAM KILEY AND DAVID ORR IN LAGOS

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, has held secret talks with Chief Moshood Abiola, the jailed Nigerian pro-democracy leader, as part of a campaign to secure his release after four years in detention.

Diplomatic sources and members of the imprisoned leader's staff said yesterday that the talks were held soon after Mr Annan arrived in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on Tuesday. Since then Mr Annan has met several times with General Abdulsalam Abubakar, the country's new leader, who has pledged to return Nigeria to civilian rule since he took over from Sani Abacha who died suddenly on June 8.

Officials said that the meeting between Chief Abiola, 61, and the UN chief was held in secret amid pressure from the military regime to persuade him to give up his claim to the presidency.

Chief Abiola, a billionaire businessman who turned to politics in the 1993 presidential campaign, was widely assumed to have won the elections five years ago. But the results were annulled by the then military leader, General Ibrahim Babangida.

Since 1994 he has been held in detention and given a death sentence for his alleged part in a coup plot aimed at deposing General Abacha, who took over from General Babangida after three months of civilian rule.

His death sentence was later

struck down by the Nigerian High Court, which ordered his release in late 1994. But he has remained in solitary confinement in Abuja ever since.

Mr Annan, a citizen of Ghana, was the first non-Nigerian to have met Chief Abiola since his detention began. Chief Abiola was moved to a more comfortable villa inside the presidential compound at Aso Rock in Abuja last week when the military Government opened talks with him over the terms of his possible release.

Mr Annan's visit was probably aimed at trying to get him to renounce his claim to the presidency in return for a role in a



Abiola: will not renounce his claim to presidency

new, civilian-led Nigerian dispensation after nearly four decades of successive military regimes.

Sources close to Chief Abiola, who have set up a clandestine method of communications with him, said that the talks were unresolved yesterday evening. But they hoped that his release would be announced by General Abubakar before the end of the week.

In Lagos, his supporters in the pro-democracy movement, many of whom have also spent years in jail and detention for supporting his claim to the presidency, continued to insist that he was the natural successor to a military Government. They said that they would accept nothing less.

A senior member of Chief Abiola's entourage, who has been in contact with him, said yesterday: "Abiola is not prepared to renounce his claim to the presidency. He was democratically elected and on that issue he remains firm."

However, Western support for Chief Abiola's hardline stand has been steadily eroded by General Abubakar over the past few weeks.

"I am happy with the response of the current leadership in the country's problems," Mr Annan said on national television in his first comments since arriving in Nigeria. "Nigeria is a country of very talented people which is a very important country as well in this region, and I believe that

a democratic leadership will bring out the best in the country."

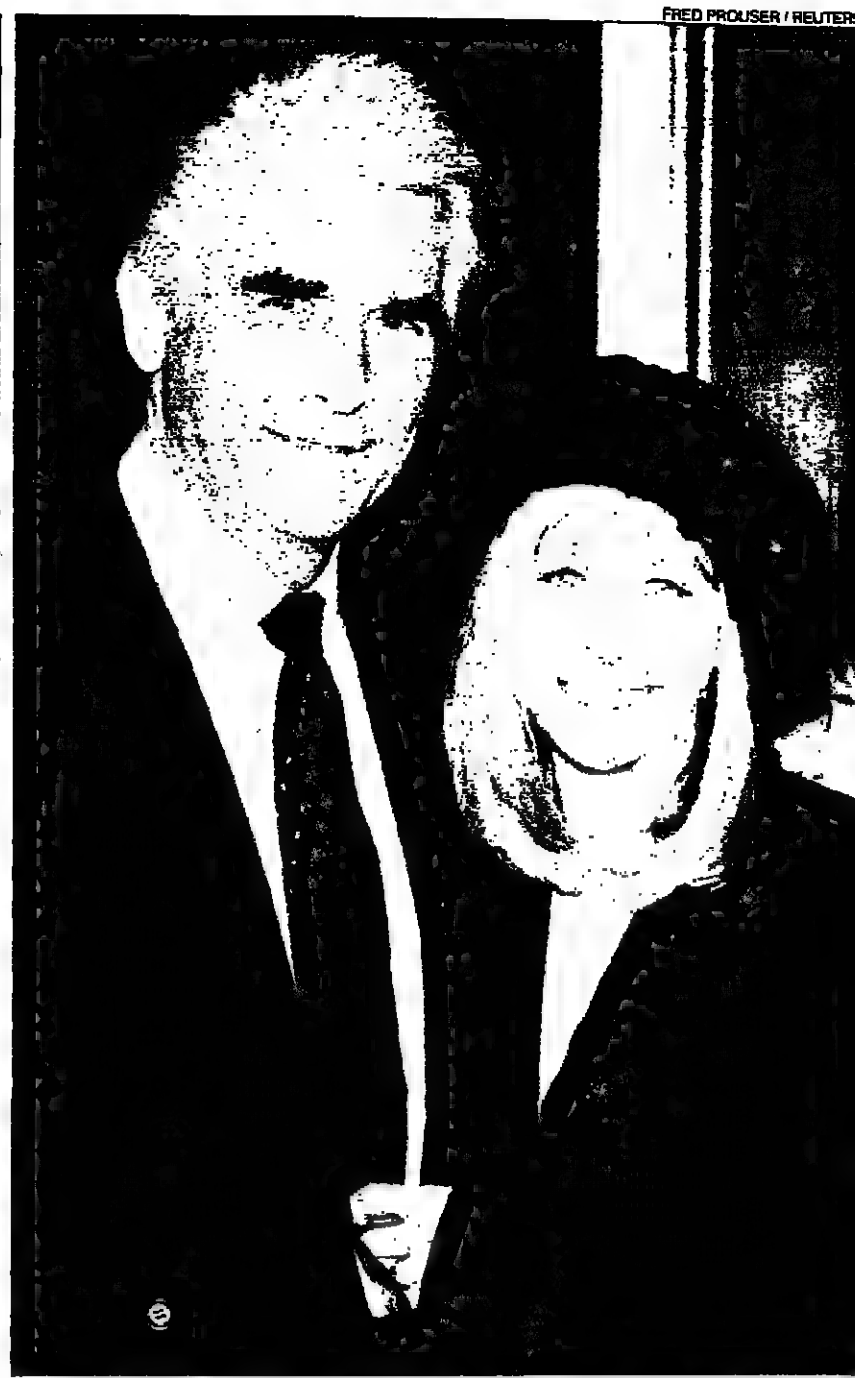
Advisers to General Abubakar and many other sources said that he was considering a wide range of options for the future of politics in Nigeria. But all of them are aimed at getting the armed forces out of power as soon as possible.

"This may not mean that he endorses the claim of Abiola to the top job. But he is definitely sure, as are all of us, that the time has come for the military to return to the barracks," said one of the senior members of the Government.

Abacha President Kabbah of Sierra Leone and Taylor of Liberia were heading for Nigeria last night for a mini-summit with the country's new military leader and Mr Annan.

A senior official at the Sierra Leone Foreign Ministry said the meeting "is a worthwhile opportunity to discuss some regional issues bordering on security and co-operation". Liberian officials said part of the focus will be on the diplomatic row between that country and Sierra Leone.

Mr Kabbah, who was deposed in a 1997 coup but was returned to power earlier this year by a Nigerian-led West African intervention force, has accused Liberia of supporting rebels who continue to fight his Government. Sierra Leone accuses Liberia of harbouring rebels that want to depose President Taylor. (AP)



James Brolin and Barbra Streisand, who are expected to marry this week at the film star and singer's Malibu mansion, two years after they met

Marquee signals Streisand wedding

FROM TUNIA VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A GIANT white marquee, pitched on the grounds of Barbra Streisand's Malibu mansion at night, has been taken by the American media as incontrovertible proof that the actress will shortly get married.

The 55-year-old film star and singer has lived with James Brolin, 56, an actor, since 1996, when they met at a dinner party thrown by one of Ms Streisand's former lovers.

Yesterday — the second anniversary of their meeting — Dick Guttman, Ms Streisand's normally taciturn publicist, told the *New York Post*: "Yes, there will be a wedding later this week." He had been hounded by journalists after that huge tent was spotted on Tuesday, and reports that lorryloads of flowers, tables and chairs had been delivered to the mansion.

No sooner had the marquee been sited than media helicopters began to hover above Ms Streisand's estate in a frenzy of aerial "news-gathering". Mr Guttman said that Ms Streisand had requested the helicopters to leave the area after 2pm on the day of the wedding, "so that the sacred vows can be heard".

The big day, of course, has not been announced, although the guests are all reported to have been told that they should keep their diaries free of other engagements until Sunday.

Zimbabwe seeks £1.4bn to buy out white farmers

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE announced yesterday that it would launch an appeal to Western governments later this year for £1.4 billion to redistribute more than 12 million acres of white-owned farms among blacks.

Joseph Msika, the chairman of President Mugabe's ruling Zanu(PF) party and head of the party-run committee responsible for listing white farms for confiscation, said it was planned to resettle 100,000 families on white land over the next five years.

Potential donors, including the British Government, will be invited to a conference here in September to discuss financial backing, he said.

But he made scant concession to international criticism of Mr Mugabe's moves since last November for a mass expropriation of white-owned land without proper compensation. "The donor conference is not convening to determine

whether or not Zimbabwe must reform its land system," Mr Msika said. "Government has already taken a policy decision."

The launch of the donors' conference came amid alarming signs of an uncontrollable wave of squatting, much of it officially inspired, according to government sources. On Monday about 60 families occupied a cattle ranch in the Odzi area, about 120 miles east of Harare, the third big squatter incident in a month.

At the weekend Mr Mugabe repeated his assertion that past British colonial policies were responsible for the explosive land issue. But an official record of the settlers on Pinewood farm in Marondera, bought in the late 1980s to resettle local peasants, gives an indication of the corruption that has bogged down land reform.

They include relatives of

Mr Mugabe's new wife, Grace, the local district administrator, a senior official of the British charity, Save the Children, a police officer and various business people. Only five of the 17 large plots on the 1,500-acre farm are occupied by local peasant farmers.

The white farming community is still shaken by the formal listing in November of 1,470 farms for confiscation. About 170 of the listed farmers have offered their land to the Government, but nearly eight months later not one of these has been acquired.

A farmer in the Makonde area north of Harare has had his farm valued at Zim\$14 million (£480,000) by the state. But the agreement of sale has been on the desk of the Agriculture Minister, Kumbirai Kangai, for months. The farmer has since been made an offer by Mr Mugabe's nephew, Leo.

Netanyahu row with Weizman simmers on

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

PRESIDENT WEIZMAN of Israel and Benjamin Netanyahu, his Prime Minister, failed yesterday to reconcile bitter public differences over the stalled peace process that have plunged the country into a constitutional crisis.

Their 70-minute meeting, which did not end in the expected joint news conference, coincided with a warning from Yasser Arafat that the Palestinians had run out of patience and would defend annexed east Jerusalem against Israeli measures in "whatever way we can".

He said: "There will be no peace, no security, no stability without the return of liberated Jerusalem, the eternal capital for an independent Palestinian state, whether they like it or not."

The showdown between the two leaders began this week when Mr Weizman blamed Mr Netanyahu for the 16-month deadlock in the peace process and called for the general election scheduled for late 2000 to be held immediately. Mr Netanyahu angrily accused the President of exceeding his largely ceremonial authority, siding with Israel's dovish left-wing opposition parties and "collaborating" with the Arabs against Israeli interests.

At the end of yesterday's meeting, initiated by Mr Netanyahu, a terse joint statement said only that the two had agreed to stop arguing in public and to discuss their differences in private "for the good of the country".

The House of Fraser famous names sale starts tomorrow.

Save an EXTRA 10% on sale prices.

Open a FraserCard and receive an extra 10% off sale purchases made with your card on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th July. This offer is also available to existing FraserCard holders.

Open tomorrow 8:30 am until 7 pm.

KURT GEIGER



Uz Claiborne

HOUSE OF FRASER

ARMY & NAVY • DAVID EVANS • DICKINS & JONES • BINNS • BARKERS • DH EVANS • HOWELLS • JOLLYS • ARNOTTS • CAVENDISH HOUSE
HOUSE OF FRASER • FRASERS • DINGLES • KENDALS • RACKHAMS • HAMMONDS

*Account opening subject to status. Full written details are available on request. Certain merchandise not available at all stores.
Registered address: House of Fraser (Stores) Ltd, 1 Howick Place London SW1P 1BH



Available in all steel with a choice of dial

LONGINES

L'ELEGANCE DU TEMPS DEPUIS 1832

The Longines DolceVita Collection is now available from leading retail jewellers.

FOR A CATALOGUE PLEASE TELEPHONE 0161 624 3977

LISON



HUGE WGS ON BOARDS, ET MUSIC, JODWIND

PHONE 04976

003909

going to press

Tackling an ancient killer

Where youth grows pale, and spectre-thin, and dies." John Keats's description of the final stages of tuberculosis has never been bettered. Keats knew all about the disease: although he abandoned his medical studies for poetry, he nursed his brother Tom until his death from pulmonary tuberculosis. Whether John was infected by Tom's *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* as a result of his devoted care, or whether both brothers were infected from a common source, will never be known.

Keats suffered the classic signs and symptoms of pulmonary tuberculosis. He had a terrible cough which kept him awake and accentuated the inevitable tiredness experienced by those who suffer from it. He coughed up blood, sweated throughout the nights, lost his appetite, grew pale with anaemia and "spectre-thin". He finally died in 1821 at a house in Rome in which his room overlooked the Spanish Steps. He had become so weakened by the disease that his devoted friend, the artist Joseph Severn, had to bring all his meals to his room. Keats tried to cut short what he described as his "posthumous life" with laudanum but Dr Clarke, who visited him many times a day, confiscated the bottle.

In the National Health Service era, doctors may make fewer home visits but modern medicine ensures a happier outcome. John Keats's case history is a good illustration of the course of the disease before BCG (bacille Calmette-Guérin) vaccination was available. If it had been, John could have nursed Tom without dire consequences, for if he had caught TB, a six-month course of three or four antibiotics would have scotched it. In Britain we are fortunate that careful treatment of tuberculosis has, in the main, kept the dreaded multi-antibiotic-resistant strains of the bacterium at bay.

The Health Education Authority, conscious that the rate of tuberculosis is no longer falling, has written to doctors with details of both the disease and BCG vaccination. In 1950, before antibiotics and BCG,



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on TB; arthritis drugs; raspberry leaf tea and pregnancy; flour allergies; and skin cancer

there were about 50,000 cases a year in the United Kingdom, now there are 6,000. The all-time low was in 1987, and the minimal increase is thought to be attributable to better diagnosis and continuing immigration from parts of the world where TB is still rampant.

In the United Kingdom, there is also a scattering of cases which have occurred as the result of HIV. In other countries this is an important cause of antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis. The secret of treating the disease is to prevent resistance by using a combination of antibiotics and by ensuring that patients co-operate with their doctors and complete the courses of antibiotics prescribed.

The BCG vaccination would also have been useful in another literary setting: the Brontë household. The vaccination does not afford 100 per cent protection — probably somewhere between 70 and 80 per cent. It is particularly efficient at protecting people against the more serious forms of TB, so if it had been available in their day, at least some members of the Brontë family might have survived unscathed, while others would only have developed a milder chronic condition such as that suffered by the sisters' father, Patrick.

Babies likely to be exposed to TB from birth, like the Brontës, should be immunised at birth; other children should be vaccinated be-

tween the ages of ten and 14. At Haworth, Patrick Brontë's diary contains a very good account of his persistent and hacking cough; he, like many older people, seems to have reached a state of equilibrium with his TB, and the true cause of the cough was missed.

So why is BCG given at two different times — at birth for those at maximum risk, in later childhood for the rest? The basis for this advice is that the impact of BCG wanes after 15 years, and the risk of catching TB is greatest in early adulthood. Maximum protection is therefore assured by giving the BCG later. BCG is not usually recommended for those over the age of 45, as by then most people will have been exposed to TB naturally.

Skin tests will show whether someone has immunity. If the patient has resistance, either as a result of previous TB or BCG, the skin responds in seven days with a raised red reaction. A few children feel a bit dizzy after BCG, or have a more serious skin reaction.

Who should not have BCG? Those who are immuno-compromised, who have a high temperature or who have recently had other live vaccines (polio excepted). Some patients who are not allowed to might wish to go down the homeopathic route and discuss a tuberculinum nosode with their homeopath.



Charlotte Brontë's life might well have been saved if modern antibiotics had been available in her day

Helping bakers breathe a little easier

THE amiable, chubby-faced baker at work among his ovens is a theme beloved by advertising agencies. The reality may be less romantic but a picture of a wheezing, tired worker suffering from baker's dermatitis, eczema and itch would not boost sales.

Recently, *Annals of Occupational Hygiene*, quoted in *The Occupational Health Review*, has analysed the factors that determine the amount of inhalation of flour dust of any particular worker and any possible response to the allergens in the wheat.

The likelihood of a bakery worker suffering heavy exposure to wheat allergens depended on the job and type of bakery. Thereafter, the effect on the person's health, in particular their respiratory system and skin, must be dependent on individual variations in susceptibility. The quality of the bakery is all-important: the Romans realised this and baths were available so that bakers could wash dust from their skins. However, by the 17th century the bakers baked by night and slept by day.

Their condition was appalling, a contemporary medical text says, "owing to the disuse of baths, dirty filth sticks to the workman's skin. Bakers are shut up in the daytime like owls to take their rest". Not surprisingly, they itched appallingly.

Here's £25 towards setting yourself free from expensive home insurance.



You don't have to keep your home insurance with your mortgage provider. With Direct Line, you could save yourself up to 30% on your current premium. And if your mortgage provider imposes a fee for switching to us, we'll even refund it, up to £25.

CALL 0113 292 7194 FOR LOW COST HOME INSURANCE

8am-8pm MON-FRI / 9am-5pm SAT

Please quote ref: 318



DIRECTLINE

The company may manage telephone conversations with the aim of improving its service.

Arthritis treatment takes a heavy toll

THE gardens of The Old Rectory, at Stanton Prior, near Bath, are looking their best at this time of the year but conversation last weekend wasn't only about the roses. Two people from the district had recently been dangerously ill following a heavy gastrointestinal bleed after they had taken anti-rheumatic medication.

The most common group of preparations used to treat arthritis and other inflammatory conditions is the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These drugs relieve pain and stiffness, reduce inflammation and allow patients to sleep and to carry on with their lives. They are hugely prescribed and are available over the counter.

The average GP has more than 200 patients with arthritis, nearly 80 per cent of whom have been treated with NSAIDs. But no drug is without side-effects. With NSAIDs, 12,000 patients develop serious side-effects every year and about 2,000 die annually with these drugs, a similar mortality to that associated with asthma or carcinoma of the cervix. An average GP will have a death in his practice every six years through use of these drugs.

Not all patients are at equal risk. Those over 65 are more likely to suffer from gastrointestinal ulcers or acute erosion of the gastrointestinal lining through use of anti-arthritis drugs, although this is the age group that needs them most.

People who already have a tendency to ulcers may be at risk. However, there are some sinister aspects to the reaction to NSAIDs. Sometimes a person who has taken them for years without trouble suddenly succumbs, or another who previously had guts of iron, may bleed after the first tablets.

Risk is reduced if they are always taken with fluids after a meal and while standing up, and the patient should not lie flat for half an hour. Another effect of NSAIDs is that the blood may occur without warning and be the first symptom. Usually, heavy gastrointestinal bleeding happens to those who have had a warning in the form of threatening pain. Disaster can strike out of blue after NSAIDs.

Although there is no such preparation as a safe NSAID, there are safer products. The addition of Misoprostol to the prescription for one of these drugs reduces the incidence of erosion, ulceration and bleeding. Voltaren retard can be obtained ready-mixed with Misoprostol in Arthrotec tablets. Mobile is also safer than NSAIDs but it, like Arthrotec, is safer but not entirely safe. Patients who are taking NSAIDs regularly, particularly if they are over 65, should have regular renal function blood tests.

One group of patients which should not take Arthrotec, Cytotec, Naproxen or any other drug containing Misoprostol, is pregnant women, those intending pregnancy or those lactating. Misoprostol in large quantities may cause an abortion and a recent report in *The Lancet* suggests that where it is used as an abortifacient it has caused abnormalities in those babies who have survived. Special care is also needed by women of reproductive age to make certain that their contraceptive measures are adequate.

There is hope that a new generation of anti-rheumatic drugs, the Cox-2, will soon be available. Until they are, patients should only continue to take them under medical supervision.

Mother nature's fruity little helper

ALTHOUGH the ancient Irish herbalist K'Eogh recommended raspberry flowers and fruit for inflammation of the eyes, to treat boils and as a stimulant for the heart, an even older use has been in pregnancy. Herbalists recommended raspberry leaves during the last ten weeks of pregnancy as they are supposed to ensure an easier childbirth with regular but less painful contractions.

Kate Aldridge's mother in *The Archers*, however, was wise to caution against them as their influence on the uterine muscle has been blamed for causing early delivery. Perhaps if Kate had listened, her baby would not have been born in the mud of Glastonbury but in the comfort of Ambridge. As would be expected, Morwen, the earth mother character, approved of raspberry leaves.

Herbal Medicines: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals, published by The Pharmaceutical Press with the support of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, quotes tests in animals that have confirmed the efficacy of raspberry leaves in inducing labour. Similarly, in the laboratory, human uterine muscle when stimulated will contract more readily when exposed to an extract of raspberry if the woman from which it was obtained had been pregnant.

The guide recommends that raspberry may be given under medical supervision during labour to ease delivery but should not be used during pregnancy unless the patient is at term. Sometimes when it has induced labour the contractions, although regular, have been more feeble than might otherwise have been the case.



Raspberry leaves should be used only during labour

Lamp has a magical effect

CHRISTIE'S Hospital in Manchester, which has an international reputation as a cancer hospital, is investigating the use of a photo-dynamic skin cancer treatment lamp.

The Manchester lamp has already replaced lasers in the treatment of many superficial cancers. It is quicker, cheaper and so painless that many patients have felt nothing.

Dr Colin Whitehurst, of Christie's Hospital, said: "It is not only cheap but also efficient. More than 400 people have been successfully treated and had the results checked by biopsy. The lamp doesn't even cause increased skin temperature and there is no scarring or skin damage, not so much as a white patch."

The lamp works by channeling an arc of pure, concentrated light through a series of lenses on to skin which has been rubbed with a cream. This has been left on for two to four hours to increase photosensitivity.

The light has been used to treat 95 per cent of skin

cancers, including rodent ulcers (basal cell carcinomas) and Bowen's disease of the skin. It has also been used in gynaecology to deal with early, malignant changes in the vulva and on the cervix and has proved effective against colo-rectal polyps. It has not been applied to malignant melanomas but has been effective against benign moles.

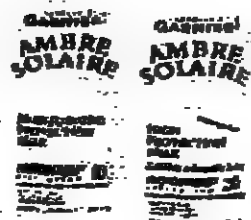
Dr Whitehurst is soon to take his machine to India, where oral cancers are common, as the lamp's cheapness and ease of use might revolutionise difficult procedures.



LACOSTE

AMBRE SOLAIRE WITH DEEP PROTECTING MEXORYL SX®
THE MOST EFFECTIVE UVA FILTRATION.

*PATENTED FILTER PROVIDING DEEP PROTECTION AGAINST UVA RAYS THAT CAUSE LONG TERM SKIN DAMAGE.



LEADING INNOVATION IN SUNCARE

AMBRE SOLAIRE

FORMULATED & CONTROLLED BY **LABORATOIRES**

GARNIER PARIS

مكنا من الاصل

h
I can
he has
it ever
v really
Where
of each
manly
are
misra
used it
e has
where
same
from a
mist
weeks
rather
is
id
res
er
s
re
as
the
he
the
as,
of
oo.
mes
ing
t by
the
of
nme
mis-
nich:
enth
ngly
n il
eath,
ng of
the
direc-
ve a
ac-
was a
to the
milla
rong,
to yet
in the
J the
at his
vig.
Oge
to I
come
re was
n, as
plomat
niting
sound-
distinct-
fadrid-
has
is oper-
this
chestral
n of a
moving
e begat
by men-
is been
ted. The
rw their
rousing
idid that
ight air.
LISON

Under-age and over the limit

The case of a 14-year-old girl who fell to her death while drunk has highlighted the fact that alcohol abuse among young people is on the rise. **Bill Frost and Francesca Albergy report**

Few of us can fail to recall our first youthful brush with alcohol: the inane giggling, the false sense of confidence and then, inevitably, nausea. Just a couple of pints of beer, perhaps a few glasses of wine were all that was required. But times have changed. What was once a harmless rite of passage has become a potentially lethal search for oblivion among the young. While once parents could say with confidence that alcohol consumption was restricted to the occasional glass at a party, now they must consider a far more sinister prospect: widespread and regular abuse is rampant. Jennifer Gelardi was one of the brightest and the best at Millfield, the Somerset public school where she died. The 14-year-old fell from a roof after a vodka party to celebrate what turned out to be her last birthday. An inquest heard of a drinking culture at the school, and that Jennifer had been quiet and withdrawn; alcohol gave her confidence and won her friends. On the day she died she was three times over the drink-drive limit after asking an older pupil to buy a bottle of vodka to "liven up the celebrations".

Irrespective of class or education, our young are drinking more heavily than ever before. Health education campaigns and lectures are largely ignored, and perhaps only parents themselves can reverse the trend — they must lead by example. The stories their children tell should be enough to convince even the most cynical adult that there is a problem. As his head began to spin and his stomach churned, Giles Eaton (not his real name) stared blankly at the empty champagne bottle and realised he was going to be sick and disgrace himself. Perhaps it was drinking on an empty stomach, perhaps the heat in the marquee, he said after being carried home drunk from the wedding reception. It never occurred to Giles that, at 13, he was a little young to be drinking Bollinger preceded by "a couple of glasses of Pimm's". While he nursed a hangover at the family home in Gloucestershire last weekend, his parents decided to seek help — their son's drinking was no longer a problem they could ignore. Now recovered from the hangover, Giles refuses to acknowledge that he has been



Kids with too much bottle: recent figures show that 96 per cent of children have tried alcohol by the time they are 15. Many youngsters feel it is safer than drugs

caught up in the pernicious culture of teenage binge drinking. His drunken performance at the wedding reception — the child was found comatose beneath a table, covered in his own vomit — was "just a bit of a laugh, something we all do, given the chance". Giles, bright, musical and from an affluent background, began drinking two years ago, about the same time he shared his first joint with an older boy. Cannabis did not suit him, but wine and spirits — always available in the family home — did. "Sure, I got sick a couple of times; after a time you just get out of it, that's the object of the exercise. All my friends are the same, it's what you do," he says with no hint of bravado.

Until last weekend, his parents, Olivia and Charles, felt it was just "a phase every child goes through"; now they are "desperately worried" and have booked an appointment for Giles with their GP, asked to see his teachers and are considering family therapy. Olivia is worried that he may have been influenced by seeing his parents drink "a bottle of wine" with meals. "You wonder whether that provides a bad example," she says. "It worries us that we failed to notice he was helping himself to the odd drink when we were not around."

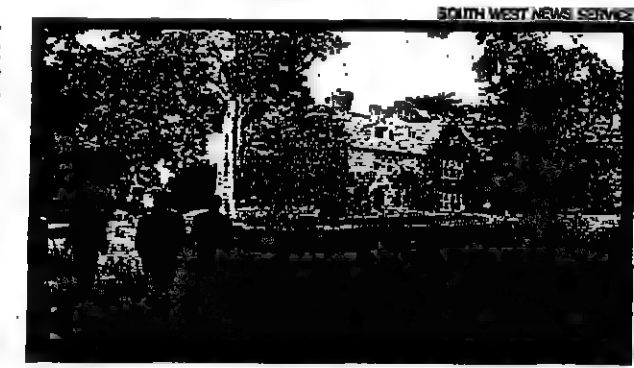
Charles is more angry than frightened at Giles's drinking, but knows the teenager needs guidance that a parent cannot provide. "I've talked to other parents and realise that heavy drinking among our children is more prevalent than we knew. And it's binge drinking, that's the real worry."

His fears are well-founded. Recent government statistics show that last year 1,000 children under 15 were admitted to hospital suffering from acute alcohol poisoning, and the figure is rising fast. Jane, a 16-year-old from southwest London who has just sat nine GCSEs and is expected to go on to university, describes herself as "a sensible drinker". She "knows her limits" but admits to buying regularly bottles of spirits with the sole intention of getting drunk. "I don't do it on my own. I feel more secure in a group. We look after each other, the sober ones make sure those the worse for wear do not come to any harm."

"People experiment a lot younger now because we are maturing earlier and have more money and freedom. I first drank wine at home when I was 11; two years later I looked old enough to buy drink for myself."

"Supermarkets and corner shops are quite easy. I do not have fake identification but if I needed to get some, I could."

Does Jane see any risk attached to alcohol? "Not really: it's less dangerous than tobacco or soft drugs. My only real worry is throwing up, it's so horrible, so embarrassing."



Millfield School, where Jennifer Gelardi fell to her death

A long history of dignity in defeat

From the battlefield of Hastings to the football pitch of St-Etienne, the British have always displayed a 'blessed decency' in the face of disaster, writes Jason Cowley

Reading the headlines in yesterday's tabloids — "Hodde's Bravery", "So Cruel", "Heroes", "The End of the World" — you could be forgiven for thinking that England had narrowly failed to win the World Cup rather than unthinkingly going out in the second round. The tabloids, as usual, spoke with the popular voice of the nation: the morning after the night before was, at least in England, an occasion of remarkable solemnity. There were no hysterics, no complaints. Some of us grumbled about the referee, a couple of expletives were lobbed in the direction of the hapless David Beckham; but on the whole we were doing what we do best: accepting defeat with grace and dignity. British Airways even offered to fly the squad home from France on Concorde. It's hard to think what might have happened if we had reached the final. Glenn Hoddle set the tone in the immediate aftermath of

the penalty shoot-out. Refusing to criticise those who missed their penalties, his voice cracking with emotion, he spoke of destiny and of his team defending like lions. The next morning he pleaded for David Beckham not to be made a "scapegoat", suggesting that his recklessness deserved no more than a caution. Argentina's manager, Daniel Passarella, caught the mood. England, he said, pushed his team to the edge: "What English spirit!"

Imagine how different the response would have been in Italy and Argentina, countries that expect — demand even — to win football matches, and are often merciless in defeat; or indeed in Colombia, where the defender Andres Escobar was murdered for scoring

grace under pressure. And that is exactly how we seem to like our losers — shed a few tears, if you want, but not too many; grumble about malign design, if you must, but then go make a cup of tea and start all over again. Just as "young" Michael Owen plans to do. He had to be consoled by his Liverpool team-mate Steve McManaman after the game in St-Etienne, but within half an hour he had composed himself and was speaking of the challenges ahead, such as the new season with Liverpool.

Would we expect anything different? This, after all, is a country where Stephen Pile's *The Book of Heroic Failures* is a perennial bestseller, and where John Major made a speech outside Downing Street the morning after losing the general election in which he said: "The second reason I shall say no more is that I hope Norma and I will be able, with the children, to get to the Oval in time for lunch and for some cricket this afternoon."

Hastings, when the widows of the shattered English were allowed to search the mounds of dead to give them a decent burial in Battle Abbey, to the rearguard at Dunkirk, British history is resonant with acts of decency in disaster. When, for instance, Sir Philip Sidney — scholar, poet, courtier, wit, preux chevalier of the Elizabethan Age — was mortally wounded on the battlefield of Zutphen in 1586, he handed his water bottle to a dying private soldier, saying: "Thy necessity is yet greater than mine." More recently, prisoners of war at the Bridge on the River Kwai famously marched in step to their death singing *Colonel Bogey*; and the Highland Brigade, surrounded by Panzers at St Valery en Caux, in 1940 marched off into captivity with pipes playing and kilts swaying to *Highland Laddie* and *The Black Bear*. Here was peculiar grace indeed. The England football team are in good company.



Major: courteous exit

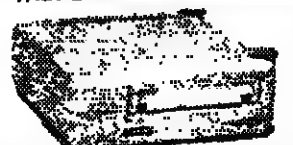


Out, with honour: even Argentina praised England's spirit

Survival of the littlest

Even the smallest company needs secure back-up for its computer systems. That's where the new HP Colorado 8GB tape drive comes in. Now you can have faster and more data storage space than ever before. They're the essential survival kit that every ambitious company should invest in to secure their future. All for as little as £180. For more information contact HP.

THE NEW HP COLORADO 8GB



hp HEWLETT PACKARD Expanding Possibilities

Ring 0990 474747

His predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, also left office with considerable dignity in the face of public humiliation. Brought down from within her own party, Baroness Thatcher for once allowed a chink of humanity to show in her formidable armour, by weeping as she got into her car after delivering her final speech outside Downing Street. The previous afternoon she had been magnificent in the Commons, at one stage shouting out "I'm enjoying this. I'm enjoying this" as she took questions, for one last time, from the massed ranks of her enemies, on both sides of the House.

Professor George Steiner, a Central European émigré living in Cambridge, deems

British Grand Prix

EXCLUSIVE OFFER - VIP RACE DAY PACKAGES FROM £399 (plus VAT)

at SILVERSTONE Manor, 5 minutes walk from Copse Corner grandstand



VIP Admission to Copse Corner Grandstand overlooking the start and first corner

A Copse champagne brunch including all day bar and snacks. Afternoon tea followed by premium barbeque and wine served for the World Cup

CALL F1 MARKETING on 0171 404-9924 9am-9pm to reserve your place

HUGE SIGNS ON BOARDS, BY MUSIC, JODWIND PHONE 020 74976 Bond Street, plug Centre. 003909 going to press.

Plotters in the court of King Tony

It's time for Labour to grow up, says Mary Ann Sieghart

Sometimes I feel like a deserted wife," a minister told me recently, "whose feckless ex-husband doesn't pay maintenance but every now and then descends on the children with lavish but utterly useless presents." He was referring to Gordon Brown's habit of unexpectedly showering money on ministers for his pet projects, which they often think are a mad waste of money, while denying cash for the rest.

For Mr Brown has subtly changed the role of Chancellor. It is an odd paradox that he is happy to hand monetary policy over to the Bank of England and to reduce his own freedom of manoeuvre in public spending by promising money for three years at a time. Yet, perhaps more than any other modern-day Chancellor, Mr Brown has taken power over policy.

Sometimes he kidnaps the policies from their departments, as with the pensions and coal reviews. At other times, he prescribes what ministers can and cannot do by giving or withholding money for specific initiatives.

The intervention is in direct proportion to Mr Brown's enthusiasm for the subject. He has little interest in education or health, for instance, perhaps because he has no children. Nor does he involve himself in Home Office business. But the Chancellor swoops on anything to do with social security, employment, industry, welfare reform, the minimum wage, regeneration, Europe and Scotland, like a hawk to a mouse.

Should not this be the preserve of the Prime Minister? Tony Blair was happy initially to delegate to his Chancellor until a few Treasury-inspired policies started to go wrong. The debates over individual savings accounts and lone-parent benefits helped to persuade the Prime Minister that he needed to keep a closer eye on what Mr Brown was doing.

During the course of this year, that monitoring relationship has become more formalised. Mr Blair now chairs the committee dealing with welfare reform. He took a much more active part in designing this year's Budget. And the two men, together with their advisers, have been working closely together on the comprehensive spending review.

This month's reshuffle, though, may alter the Blair/Brown nexus further. Westminster hands will be fascinated by whether Blairites or Brownies have been moved up, down or sideways. One Blairite minister confided to me this week that he and a colleague had been through the complete list of Government and worked out that there was a Brownie lurking in every single department but one. It is not just his findings that are interesting, but the fact that he had taken the pains to conduct the operation in the first place.

For the courts of the two men are as competitive as those of any king and his heir. There is more rivalry and

rancour between the courtiers than between the men themselves, for the moment at least. But the potential for an explosion may be heightened by the redesign of the Cabinet Office that Mr Blair is planning to accompany his reshuffle.

The idea is to give the minister in charge of the Cabinet Office — popularly assumed to be Peter Mandelson, though the job could go to someone else — the power to cajole departments to co-ordinate policy and initiate cross-departmental action. He will have a mini-policy unit of his own, though it will have a different name, manned by officials and outsiders brought in on secondment to the Civil Service. He will therefore have the manpower to research policies and second-guess other ministers.

Officially, the intention is to promote what No 10 calls "joined-up thinking", recognising that most social problems involve several government departments. Mr Mandelson (if it is he) will also be expected to look round corners for problems and to set a strategic course.

In terms of good government, this makes some sense — though the task of "joining up" departments will be harder than anyone thinks. But the problem, as ever in this Administration, lies with personalities. Can the centre hold Gordon Brown, Peter Mandelson and Tony Blair?

Mr Blair has, on the whole, stood aloof from the grudge, hatreds and feuds of his senior colleagues. The bitterness between Mr Brown on the one hand and Messrs Mandelson, Cook and Prescott on the other is corrosive and incurable. Their colleagues have at various times tried unsuccessfully to engineer rapprochements. Mr Blair does have rows with Mr Brown, often acrimonious, but at least they always manage to make up. The imposition of Mr Mandelson, though, between the two men may be inflammatory.

The new Cabinet Office post is necessary as something of a counter-balance for No 10 to the Treasury. But the fact that Mr Mandelson is doing the Prime Minister's bidding could make matters worse. Mr Brown is oddly jealous of other people being close to his protégé. He will truly resent having one of his enemies claiming to represent Mr Blair's views and taking over responsibility for policy that the Chancellor has until now thought to be his.

All this institutional reform is meant to lead to better government. The comprehensive spending review should stop Mr Brown indulging in the sort of capricious generosity of which his ministerial friend complained. The new Cabinet Office ought to make government run more smoothly. But departments cannot work together unless people work together. The best hope for better government is that Mr Blair's ministers should at least try to grow up.



"I'M FEELING BETTER ALREADY!"

Do argue with the ref

Unquestioning obedience is no way of teaching true respect for the law

This article is about to say something controversial. If you are unwilling to be irritated and shocked, please stop reading now. A health warning seems necessary because there are certain opinions that even a professional polemicist is not supposed to express, at least in Britain. It is all right to attack government ministers, civil servants, businessmen, foreign leaders, army officers, sportsmen, bishops, central bankers, trade unionists, arts administrators and, above all, members of the Royal Family. To call such people is every newspaper columnist's stock in trade.

It is perfectly acceptable to suggest that schoolchildren should not be taught mathematics and science, or to muse whether rape is really a serious crime. But even by the standards of open debate which fortunately prevail in Britain, what I feel impelled to say after watching the football match on Tuesday — and especially after watching it with my three impressionable young children — may be branded outrageous and politically incorrect.

England's defeat on Tuesday was not the fault of Beckham. Batty or Hoddle, or any of the other players. It was the fault of an apparently stupid and vain referee.

The game, for me at least, was not ruined by Beckham's modest outrage. It was ruined by the referee's disproportionate response. One had only to look into the eyes of both protagonists to realise that the man whose judgement had been most seriously clouded by vanity and bad temper was not Beckham, but Kim Milton Nielsen, the Danish referee.

What made this incident particularly affecting, especially when watching the match with children, was the moral lesson it seemed to convey. The lesson intended was, of course, that rules had to be obeyed and authority respected. The real message was very different. Justice was arbitrary, capricious and unconnected to fair play. Authority should never be openly questioned. And the only appropriate response to injustice was hypocrisy.

In my post-match depression — after struggling vainly to convince my distraught sons that the real responsibility for England's defeat lay not with the luckless Batty, but with the wicked Beckham — it suddenly struck me that some lessons of the red-card incident might be relevant not only to football (in which

I have had little interest for 28 years, since I was distracted from my A-level revision by Pele's performance in the 1970 World Cup) but also to some of the political and economic developments observable today in Britain, Europe and the world at large.

Take hypocrisy first. Within minutes of expressing their astonishment at Beckham's dismissal, the TV commentators were describing the decision as inevitable, reasonable and fair. In yesterday morning's newspapers, Beckham, the victim of judicial overreaction, had been unanimously branded as the guilty party. As far as I could see, only one commentator, David Miller in *The Daily Telegraph*, had the courage to say openly what millions of people (including even my mother-in-law) believed — that "the action of the Danish referee was wholly without justification". Worst of all, there seemed to be widespread agreement among the media and the fans on the true nature of Beckham's crime. His real transgression lay not in the malice of aiming a modest and probably painless kick at an Argentine opponent, but in doing this "so stupidly" in direct sight of the referee.

This hypocritical attitude — that rules exist not so much to ensure fair play as to test the players' ability to exploit them — has been prevalent throughout the World Cup, with histrionic shows of agony, reminiscent of professional wrestling, now taken for granted as a part of football technique. It was hardly surprising, from this point of view, that three of the four goals scored on Tuesday, plus the goal disallowed, resulted directly from referee's decisions, all of them open to question.

What broader lessons does all this convey, especially for our children? That authority must be feared, certainly. But not necessarily that the laws and the rule of law are to be respected. Respect for the law is not the same as a hypocritical and exploitative acquiescence — a lesson that will be instantly recognised by

anyone who follows regulatory politics, especially in the European Union, but also in America.

At the risk of some gross oversimplification, European societies can broadly be divided into three groups in terms of their attitudes to the law. First, there are the naturally orderly societies, such as Germany, where instinctive obedience and respect for the law is a quintessential feature of education and national culture. Secondly, there are highly individualistic countries, such as Italy and to some extent France, where the attitude to law is one of

exploitative acquiescence. Northern Italy is home to the most entrepreneurial business culture in Europe — despite vast panoplies of regulations — because of this attitude to law. For every law, there is a loophole. And for every loophole there is a competitive advantage to be gained. This is especially true when government officials accept that a slightly hypocritical flexibility in enforcement is the *quid pro quo* for a huge codex of detailed regulations and laws.

Then there is Britain. The British attitude to law has traditionally been exactly the opposite to that of Italy. Laws exist to be obeyed. Government officials and judges see one of their principal duties as the strict enforcement of all regulations and laws. But Germany's unquestioning obedience is also alien to British culture. The *quid pro quo* for strict universal enforcement, at least in Britain, has traditionally been a limit to the amount of detailed regulation and a genuine respect for the law. This respect is based, in turn, on a combination of long historical traditions and on the openness to public criticism of those who make and administer the rules.

To be properly respected, at least in an individualistic society such as ours, the laws must be comprehensible and they must appeal to common sense. Equally, the people who impose and administer these laws must command confidence and trust.

To instil the habit of respect for the law is, of course, one of the main reasons for encouraging children to play sports, with their strict rules and unquestioning obedience to judges. This is why criticising the referee in football or any other game is considered worse than unsporting. It is somehow deeply immoral. It is also why even the most aggressive media commentators and politicians rarely question the wisdom of judges. But judges are frequently responsible for gross miscarriages of justice and refs. I dare say, are even more likely to make grotesque mistakes. So should referees never be publicly criticised? And should we be trying to instil in our children a counter-intuitive and irrational belief that figures of authority, be they judges, referees or teachers, are always right?

The answer is definitely not — at least if we want Britain to remain a country that lives on its wits and prospers in the world, through individualism and creativity, even if this occasionally requires some help from foreign management.

To say that children, at least in Britain, should not be discouraged from questioning authority is not the same as to deny the practical virtues of discipline. On the sports field, there is an obvious practical reason why referees must be immune to criticism. Any game would grind to a halt if all referees' decisions were subject to discussion and appeal. But this practical objection, which also applies to the judge in his own courtroom and the teacher in his own class, says nothing about the ethics of questioning, criticising and occasionally even deriding, the views of referees, judges and teachers, when circumstances are less fraught.

Every child can understand the difference between arguing with a referee on the sports field and questioning his judgment after the event. But every child, at least in a self-consciously individualistic society such as Britain, should also understand that referees, judges, teachers (and even parents) are obeyed for practical reasons of social cohesion — and not because they are always right. To show children the difference between unquestioning obedience and conscious self-control is the way to instil a proper respect both for authority and for individual conscience. A good place to start is by criticising stupid referees.

We know just how you feel

Magnus Linklater contrasts the English and Scots in defeat

To be beaten is one thing," said the English fan, caught by the microphone as he trudged away from the stadium at St Etienne, "but to be beaten when we were so close, that's just... horrible." He was echoing a line once used by John Cleese, who played a crazed schoolmaster in the film *Clockwise*. Dogged by misfortune, he sees his chances of getting to a vital conference in time steadily slipping away: "It's not the despair I mind. It's the hope," he cries.

Defeat comes in many guises. It can be overwhelming, like Austerlitz, or unexpected, like Bannockburn, or grinding, like Stalingrad. But there is nothing like the glimmer of optimism to twist the knife: "if only" simply sharpens the pain.

The Scots who travelled to France did not have to cope with that extra burden of expectation. They went to the World Cup with only the most distant hope of victory, and when it failed to materialise, they gave a national shrug of the shoulders and got drunk with the Moroccans instead.

The English found it harder to take. These days, tears, bodies slumped in despair, and gestures of grief more fitting for a Greek chorus than a national team, have taken the place of the stiff upper lip. For some players, such as Shearer, it was a case of blaming the referee or the Argentinians, or anybody — not, perhaps, an example for a captain to set. Others were more sanguine. The older and wiser Bobby Charlton told Shearer to "come off it" and accept defeat like a man. I preferred the comments of England's brilliant young goalscorer Michael Owen, who said he thought the game had been a harsh lesson, but a useful one as well.

From the ashes of defeat, there are some positive things to be gleaned — thin, possibly, when compared with the distant fruits of victory, but worth holding on to nonetheless. We did not have Falklands War Mark II that had been predicted by most commentators. Street fighting with Argentine fans was sporadic and contained. Instead of simply dreadful as before. It may be small comfort, when set against the horrors of Marseilles, to report "small riot, not many hurt", but at least we saw images of English fans as human beings rather than the irredeemable monsters of the headlines — if you prick them, do they not bleed? Even some of the troublemakers, looking back at the game and its aftermath, may have concluded that there are better ways of travelling home than stripped, handcuffed and reviled.

I detected, too, a distinct warming of Anglo-Scott relations as a result of a game in which those qualities of dogged resistance and occasional flashes of brilliance which the English showed, found an echo in Scottish hearts. Several friends, who traditionally back any team playing against England, and who had metaphorically donned Argentine shirts for Tuesday night's match, confessed yesterday morning that they felt no joy at England's defeat.

Instead they had found themselves willing on the old enemy during the final penalty shoot-out because they recognised a side of real quality. They adopted Owen as a new-found hero for his sniping runs, savaged the referee for failing to allow Sol Campbell's header, and even flung a sympathetic arm around David Batty's shoulder when he missed his penalty.

It is hard to convey to an English readership what a shift this represents in the traditional glacier of Scottish prejudice. As recently as last week, a colleague in France for the Cup, spotted a T-shirt being worn by a Scottish fan bearing a list of "Scotland's Heroes". It included the names of Maradona, Southgate and Pearce — one cheating goalscorer against England, and two English players who missed vital penalties. For some, this is the unifying image most commonly associated with the Scottish fan, and this is certainly the stereotype favoured by the media.

The truth is a little more complex and a little more comforting. The T-shirt is not to be taken any more seriously than the ginger wigs which Scottish supporters use to send-up an image of themselves as furious Celts. The genuine fan will applaud an English team and relish its skills when he feels it is merited, whatever he may think about English attitudes, and the perception of English condescension. Very often the resentment is directed more against the unthinking commentator who appears to disparage Scottish skills than against an English player or the national team. Thus it is that Jimmy Hill is still vilified for describing the great goal by David Narey against Brazil in 1982 as "a toe-poke".

With the shared experience of defeat, however, and the mutual respect that comes from a great game played with grit and determination, a little more warmth and fellow-feeling may be allowed to enter the relationship. Both nations went, saw, and came back beaten. But both drew comfort from the experience, and found possibilities for the future. It is, after all, only a game.

Empty table

CHRIS SMITH is attempting to retain his Cabinet seat in typical new Labour style: he has invited a bunch of arty types to dine in an Islington restaurant. The Culture Secretary (pictured right), who has come under ever more shrill attacks from the art world, hopes the dinner at Frederick's will provide an opportunity for a public display of popularity a week or two before Tony Blair is expected to reshuffle his pack. Worriedly for Smith, however, acceptances for the event later this month have been somewhat tardy, and his friends are now working frantically to assemble as glittering an array of names from the arts establishment as they can.

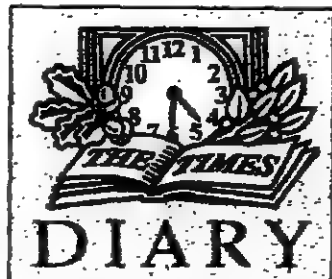
"We can't confirm too many names at the moment," a flunkie in the minister's office tells me. "The event is a couple of weeks away and we expect things to pick up nearer the time." Hitherto, the only definite bookings for the £100-a-head bash at the eatery where Cherie Blair celebrated her 40th birthday have come from the usual suspects: the newly ennobled Lords Bragg and Alli, and Paul Gambaccini. Still to reply are Michael Cashman and Helena Kennedy, QC. But Lord Putnam (left), I hope not the first of many, has sent his apologies, pleading a previous engagement. Should Smith's gamble backfire, yet another Islington restaurant will be forever linked with the fortunes of Blair's party.



● **SOMEONE in the White House** has a ripping sense of humour. Every time Bill Clinton popped in and out of the Portman Ritz Carlton Hotel in Shanghai, where he had been booked by his staff for a few days during his Chinese trip, he was greeted by the neon sign on a fast-food joint opposite which read "Espresso Monica".

Decamping

STEPHEN BAYLEY, the design guru who flogged out of the



Dome after rows with Peter Mandelson, is penning a satirical, cultural history of new Labour. The book, out in the autumn, will be called *Labour Camp* — referring to the party's "limp-wristed affections, a tasteless evocation of the Nazis" — and the 1968 essay by Susan Sontag defining camp as a victory of style over content.

Bayley will devote only one chapter to the Dome. Other topics will include spin, "wretched Cool Britannia and the nonsense of rebranding Britain". The epilogue will be called "River Café culture", a dig at Lord Rogers of Riverside and those who hang out at the River Café, his wife's restaurant. "Since I have lost my knighthood, I have enjoyed the role being a dissident," Bayley says. "The serious message will be that a government which manipulates image gives off the whiff of dictatorship."

● **THAT unlikely hunt supporter, Kate Hock, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, has been confirmed in her opinion of foxes and what to do with them.** A few nights ago a fox killed eight chickens and then returned for the cockerel on her parents' farm in Avon. "They only have one chicken left," says Kate, somewhat forlornly.

Return match

TORIES in Leominster are plotting their revenge on Peter Temple-Morris. They plan to embarrass



"This must be Beckham, he's off his rocker"

the MP, elected as a Conservative to represent the Herefordshire constituency but now on the government benches, when he takes part in Radio 4's *Any Questions*, to be broadcast from the backwater next weekend.

Meetings are being held in pubs to decide how those local Conservatives invited by the BBC to join the audience should make their opinions known. "He must know he's going to be pulled to bits," says a yoked. "The Tories are out to get him. It's going to be like the night of the long knives all over again — writ large. It's all very exciting." The Beeb is prepared: "If anyone were to throw flour bombs or tomatoes, the police would be on the spot to deal with the disruption immediately." Enoch Powell would have sympathised.

● **AS John Major stood to address Conservatives in Battersea on Tuesday night, he appeared to receive the kind of rapturous reception he had never experienced in power.** The roar of approval, however, turned out not to be for the former PM, rather England had just equalised against Argentina.

Cover story

FIONA PHILLIPS, the reassuringly easy face of GMTV, has a rebel-



lious streak. She considered an invitation to follow in the footsteps of Ulrika Jonsson and Denise Van Outen and appear on the cover of *Loaded*, the morose "lads" magazine, doing an Emma Peel (you know the thing: leather and knee-high boots). But GMTV station managers said no. "I know it's pathetic, but I was so flattered," she says. Her superiors saw it differently: "How on earth could I be on GMTV talking to some poor woman who had lost her child in tragic circumstances, and the next be seen doing *Loaded*." One end of some breakfast tables might be rather disappointed.

JASPER GERARD



THE ONLY ROUTE

Hume should support the Drumcree Orangemen

Having taken such giant strides away from confrontation recently, it seems perverse that a short walk could take Northern Ireland back to the precipice. But the determination of Armagh Orangemen to march down the few hundred yards of the Garvaghy Road this Sunday could pitch the Province into chaos. The Prime Minister told the Commons yesterday that he considered the situation "fraught" and his forebodings are widely shared in Ulster. For many citizens of Great Britain the potential of a church parade to unleash months of compromise must seem baffling. The Drumcree march, however, has assumed a symbolic significance in the life of the Province that goes to the heart of a conflict which is in abeyance but is not yet over.

Resolving Drumcree was always going to be difficult. For the past three years the march has gone ahead only after nationalist agitation has been faced down at the point of a baton. In every case the judgment seems to have been made on the basis of might rather than right, a melancholy pattern in Northern Ireland. But in Drumcree the situation is more complex.

The route the marchers follow has been walked since 1807. The Orangemen walk from Portadown, in the very heart of Ulster, to Drumcree Church, where they observe divine worship before processing back to the town centre along the Garvaghy Road. This stretch of tarmac used to be a country lane through farmers' fields, but now it runs by a housing estate whose residents are almost exclusively nationalist.

The Roman Catholic citizens of Portadown have never shown any sign of welcoming the walk but only recently have they sought to halt it by militant agitation. The residents' association which has led opposition is itself led by a former republican prisoner who bombed a local British Legion hall. It is no curious anomaly of Portadown life that such a man should play such a role. Most of those residents' associations which have agitated against Orange marches

across Northern Ireland are led by figures from Sinn Féin and the IRA.

The Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams has admitted that the manufactured confrontation that has sprung from the disruption of such marches is a recent gain for his movement. It allows republicans to pose as defenders of victimised Catholics as well as underlining the Sinn Féin thesis that Northern Ireland is ungovernable under the Crown. It is in the context of such cynical subversion that the whole question of traditional marching routes must be viewed.

The decision on Monday by the Parades Commission to reroute the Drumcree parade this Sunday was, then, a concession to republicanism. It was the prospect of republican-inspired violence that made this march contentious in the first place. The descent into disorder by frustrated supporters of the Orangemen in past years has been unforgivable. But loyalist agitators were only responding to a situation where they saw violence and the threat of violence rewarded. In that respect Drumcree is a metaphor for all Ulster.

It is also a symbol because this march is the last such parade in a town where the Order has already conceded ground with neither thanks nor recognition. As such, for those Protestants across Ulster who feel that they have ceded power and symbols for peace only to be met by yet further demands, Drumcree assumes iconic significance. For those Orangemen who wish to march there is little left to lose.

If a new era is to be established in Ulster then it must be based on tolerance and generosity, as much towards those who feel their British identity has taken a battering as towards those whose Irishness has been given new expression. John Hume, the man with the greatest moral authority in Irish nationalism, should ask the residents of the Garvaghy Road to show that there is room for all traditions in the new Ireland by allowing this march to proceed. Every other route seems to lead into darkness.

HEROIC IN DEFEAT

But can we have a win next time, please?

That was a famous defeat. But it was still a defeat. For a country with England's strength, depth, tradition and passion for football to reach the last eight would have been just about an acceptable passmark in the international league table. To lose as one of the last 16 sides must be counted a failure.

That said, it was an heroic failure. To hold out with ten men for an hour and a quarter against what may now prove to be the best team in the world was magnificent. It provided the best match in the World Cup so far, and it included the best goal. Neither side deserved to lose, and the result teetered in the balance for 120 minutes which will stick in the memories of millions as football as it is meant to be played. And England were never outplayed, outthought or out-thought. They still looked as though they could win until that last mischievous goal.

So England were unlucky to lose. But it would be pathetic to blame fate, individual players or the referee. Like all sports, at this level football is a game of luck as well as skill, played and refereed by fallible mortals at almost superhuman speed. The blast of the whistle, the luck of the bounce and the way that the players meet these occupational hazards create its excitement. For England to be eliminated from an international tournament by a penalty shootout for the third time in eight years might seem a jinx to the superstitious. But this coincidence is merely a sign of hard-fought games.

The Russian roulette of the penalty shootout is the worst form of settling a drawn game, except for all the other forms that have been tried or suggested. It is unfair that those who miss crucial kicks should carry

the blame for losing the game. But it was unprofessional for David Batty, whose fateful final penalty shot was saved, to claim that he has never taken a penalty before, not even in practice games. Other teams train for penalty shoot-outs. As goalkeepers become more dextrous at saving penalties, players need to be trained for taking them.

Nor should David Beckham take the sole responsibility for costing England the game. He deserved a red card for stupidity for his petulant retaliatory hack. That was a failure of discipline unacceptable from such a highly paid professional. And England paid dearly for his childishness. From then on the ten men left were outgunned. And Beckham, one of the fiercest strikers of the stationary ball, would have taken the penalty that was missed by Ince, who had never taken one before. Beckham's red card turned him from saviour to villain who cost England the World Cup. But both judgments are exaggerated.

Beckham is young enough to play in more World Cups, if he can now learn the disciplines of his trade. Michael Owen is the most exciting young player on the world stage, who could mature into another Pelé. Glenn Hoddle's strategy and selections have generally been justified. From the Battle of Hastings to Dunkirk, England takes pride in heroic failure. It is the pride of Lord Charles Hay at the Battle of Fontenoy shouting: "Gentlemen of the French Guard, fire first!" But England won Fontenoy, and they will win often again at football, if they play as well as they did against Argentina. Next time, let us hope, without a penalty shoot-out.

L'ADDITION, S'IL VOUS PLAÎT

The 35-hour week brings down a celebrated political restaurant

The food is usually indifferent, the *patron* irascible, the service tardy and a lunchtime table impossible to book unless you are a regular. Yet every capital has an infamous restaurant where Cabinet decisions are plotted, confidences betrayed, ambitions whetted and politics ingested with every spoonful of vichyssoise. For at least three decades the affairs of West Germany were decided in Maternus, the traditional lugubrious establishment in Bonn's diplomatic suburbs. The good nuns of L'Eau Vive ensure that the cardinals who dine as well as the Vatican hideaway are physically as well as spiritually nourished. And Shepherd's can on any day boast at least five tables of MPs spinning their next camera-catching question to the Prime Minister.

In France, of course, the *mélange* of cuisine and statecraft has been refined to a Parisian sophistication that would delight any Richelieu. And Chez Edgard was the example, *par excellence*, of a national institution that indulged some of the more endearing qualities of French politicians: sneering at voters, hatching conspiracies, bringing down governments and entertaining mistresses. The food would hardly merit a Michelin star: the owner was capricious, and the tables were teasingly divided by little glass screens that allowed all to see that little glass secret was being betrayed but prevented any overhearing of the details. Yet few deputies could have foreseen that

this haven of political perfidy would be brought down by their own doing. For when they voted enthusiastically for a 35-hour week, in the myopic belief that this would halve unemployment at a stroke, they little thought that even the *patron* has to pay his sous-chefs. *Hélas*, it has proved the last straw for an establishment already enraged by the differential taxes on McDonald's and *chateaubriand*. With a snort of indignation, he abruptly announced that he was drawing down the shutters, shaking out the tablecloths and driving out all those clients who had contributed to his undoing.

As a small gesture to those journalists and *énarques* whom he had placed at poky tables or bored with his trenchant views, he gave a valedictory dinner: *crevettes, saumon* and *noisettes d'agneau*. A better menu might have been *hors d'oeuvres, potage de tomates* and *profiteroles* (*sans profit*).

The politicians, no doubt, will migrate elsewhere. Gossip invariably follows the fashionable, flirtatious and fastidious, and the waiters will grow appropriately arrogant and the *patron* suitably pompous to ensure that *le tout Paris* will soon be clamouring for entry. One thing is certain: French politics will continue to mix the mendacious with the mouth-watering, the government with the gourmand. And that will, as ever, make the job all the harder. For as de Gaulle asked, how can one ever rule a country that has 265 varieties of cheese?

Relations between media and No 10

From Mr Richard Clemmow, Head of News Programmes, BBC

Sir, I agree with Alastair Campbell (letter, July 1) that relations between the Government and the BBC are perfectly good. Each party understands the other, and we both recognise that programmes will often seek more interviews than Government can cope with, and Government will decline invitations more often than audiences might expect.

Any interviewee has the right to say no. But most politicians see it as part of their role in the modern world to say yes to public scrutiny reasonably frequently. That is, I think, why Frank Dobson featured so prominently in today's *The World at One* which, despite Mr Campbell's comments, remains a key and popular current affairs programme, reaching more than two million people a week.

It is also wrong to suggest that *Newsnight's* audience is in long-term decline. Four million people with a serious interest in politics, policy and the world tune in each week. They certainly tune in to see ministers tested there. Indeed in the last couple of months the Deputy Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary have been amongst the many senior ministers who have appeared on the programme.

Politicians who want to raise their profile will naturally be inclined to say yes to the programmes with the biggest audiences. Those who want to keep their heads down will try to avoid the toughest questioning.

It would be a disservice to voters and audiences if any government were to adopt a policy of restricting ministerial appearances only to those programmes with mass audiences or only to those where the questioning failed to meet the standards of rigour that BBC News programmes like *The World at One* and *Newsnight* set themselves.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD CLEMMOW,
Head of News Programmes,
BBC News Centre,
Wood Lane, W12 7RJ,
July 1.

From Mr Christopher Whiteside

Sir, I was most amused by Alastair Campbell's ironic dig at John Humphrys, Jeremy Paxman, and Nick Clarke over their capacity "to promote themselves as fearless defenders of truth".

Does he really imagine that we have forgotten the rather different line which Labour spin-doctors took over the previous 18 years? Messrs Humphrys, Paxman and Clarke treated ministers in the last Government to exactly the style of tough interviewing from which Mr Campbell is keen to protect the current incumbents, and I don't recall him writing to *The Times* to complain.

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER WHITESIDE,
41 Queens Crescent,
Marshalswick, St Albans AL4 9QQ.
Chris.whiteside@bt.com
July 1.

From Mr Stephen Baxter

Sir, Given the hectic demands on the Prime Minister's schedule which prevent him from giving more serious interviews, why has he today given a lengthy piece to BBC television answering detailed questions on England's defeat in the World Cup?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BAXTER,
16 Milner Street, SW3 2PU,
July 1.

Investing in China

From the Director of The World Development Movement

Sir, President Clinton's simple and sincere statement of faith in human rights to students at Peking University on Monday (reports and leading article, June 30) was a hopeful epilogue to the horror faced by students of that university in Tiananmen Square nine years ago. But sadly, not all American companies share his conviction.

China is a coveted market for foreign multinationals, but conditions for workers inside the country are notoriously difficult to assess from the outside. That puts the onus on American and other foreign multinationals locating in China to ensure that the President's words are put into practice. They should implement codes of conduct incorporating internationally agreed minimum standards (such as those relating to child labour, forced labour, health and safety) and agree to have them independently audited.

With \$1.87 billion of new contracts for American business already in place in the aftermath of the Clinton visit, it is these companies, not the people of China, who are the main beneficiaries so far of improved Sino-US relations. As China opens its doors to foreign investment, human rights abuses are no longer the responsibility of governments alone.

Yours sincerely,
BARRY COATES, Director,
The World Development Movement,
25 Beehive Place, SW9 7QR,
July 1.

Business letters, page 33

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Revise or reject a second chamber?

From Mr William Hutton

Sir, The doubts which exist about the reform of the House of Lords may still seem to many to be at odds with the democratic conduct of a modern Parliament. Why should the electorate be saddled with a second chamber which will continue without popular mandate?

Could not the second chamber be quietly abandoned without fuss? This course would offer no affront or challenge to a constitutional monarch who does not sit in Parliament in any case. The existence of a second unelected chamber for revising purposes is certainly not supportive of the democratic tradition. The development of that tradition is to be encouraged, but surely it can be undertaken within a single camera system, especially in a European context.

Sufficient unto the day seems the emerging collection of elected parliaments and assemblies within the United Kingdom, supplemented or complemented, as one prefers, by the development of the European Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HUTTON,
8 Sutherland Avenue, Petts Wood,
Orpington, Kent BR5 1QZ,
July 1.

From Professor Emeritus Colin Harbury

Sir, Why do we need a second chamber at all? The cases against patronage and elections to an upper chamber with little real power are both strong. Unicameralism works elsewhere.

Certainly there is a need for legislation to be publicly debated in an other than party-political framework. But not always by the same group of people.

The debate badly needs widening to the reform of Parliament, including the Commons. Radical changes to involve much more outside experience and expertise is perfectly feasible; it could allow us to forget the second chamber altogether.

Yours etc,
COLIN HARBURY,
Bridge House, Pakenham,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 2JU,
July 1.

Teacher inductions

From the Chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference and others

Sir, An important element in the Teaching and Higher Education Bill, now before the Lords (report, June 24), relates to the induction of newly qualified teachers. In Scotland this has long been the responsibility of head teachers. It is they who recommend newly qualified teachers for registration with the General Teaching Council — and they may recommend postponement as well as acceptance or rejection.

In England, in contrast, we are being confronted by what looks like an old-fashioned recipe for bureaucratic management. Local authorities will be charged with the "quality assurance" of induction. Throughout the country, local councillors will "second-guess" the judgment of the professionals whom they employ, absorbing sums critically needed for teaching. It is difficult to imagine a gesture better calculated to diminish the fledgeling GTC or more likely to confirm the vicious circle in which the teaching profession is currently trapped.

We believe that it is right for standards of induction to be determined by the Teacher Training Agency. Ofsted should inspect each school's induction procedures, and heads should be trusted to get on with their job — and get it right. The GTC should constitute the court of appeal, with the DfEE performing this function in the interim.

Heads would not expect their positive recommendations to be challenged by the GTC: they would be foolish indeed to recommend that a newly qualified teacher should, in effect, be confirmed in his or her appointment if they were not confident that the newly qualified teacher would be an asset to their school.

The Government should not allow itself to be committed to a wrong course. It is not too late, we trust, for it to think again.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK TOBIN,
Chairman, Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.
JACKIE ANDERSON
(President, Girls' Schools Association),
BRUCE DOUGLAS
(President, Secondary Heads Association),
130 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7PG,
July 1.

From Mr R. H. W. Cooper

Sir, Like Mr Brasher, I too knew the West Coast line before it was a Virgin. It has indeed done worse since the takeover, but a cursory inspection of the rolling stock inherited convinces me that this was inevitable.

Logically, I have every confidence that with the increased investment things must improve; to do otherwise would be very careless.

In the meantime, for the purposes of encouragement, might I recommend a conceit that I have deployed recently, adopted from a previous age of rail travel, of doffing one's cap (or similar) when the train approaches Oxtenholme station, and congratulating the driver on safe, if not always punctual, arrival at Euston.

The staff do seem to like it, and I am sure they are as irritated by their present handicaps as we, the users.

Yours hopefully,
R. H. W. COOPER,
Bracken Steps,
Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9RL.

British Jewry

From Mrs Marlena Schmol

Sir, I should like to clarify one point in your report of June 26, "British Jewry falls to lowest level this century", on the forthcoming survey by the Board of Deputies.

From the Leader of the House of Lords

Sir, I do not understand Magnus Linklater's point ("Lording it over their lordships", June 29). He seems to think I have said that because the House insisted this week on an amendment on tuition fees in Scotland, it should be reformed. I said no such thing.

As *The Times* correctly stated (report, Politics & Government, June 24), I said that the imbalance in the House underlined the case for reform. My comment on reform was about the number of Conservative peers, not the decision of the House.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD
House of Lords,
June 25.

From Lord Amphill

Sir, In his admirable piece today, Magnus Linklater went somewhat astray near the end when he wrote that the Government had accepted "no more than two or three minor amendments" made in the House of Lords in this session. This is true as regards Opposition amendments; but it is only fair to point out that by June 4 this year the House had made no fewer than 1,610 amendments, the great majority of them moved by the Government.

There is no doubt that we will easily pass the usual average of 2,000 amendments a year, and Commons acceptance of 98 per cent of them. The fact that the majority of them are moved in their final form by the Government does not mean that they resulted from government inspiration; if that was the case they would have been in the original Bill.

They come to be made from a variety of sources: pressure from peers, both in the chamber and out of it, is the largest. But comment from outside plays a large part, and MPs will have been at them as well.

But it remains an illusion that without the work of the Lords themselves the result would not have been achieved.

Yours faithfully,
AMPHILL,
House of Lords,
June 25.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. BARTLETT,
Director-General,
The Paper Federation,
Riverside Road,
Westlea, Swindon SN5 7BD,
June 29.

From Mr Selby Martin

Sir, The 45p per kg offered for aluminium cans by the Aluminium Can Recycling Association (letter, June 23) is hardly likely to attract any but the most dedicated recycler.

A more effective system would be a 10p deposit charge on all containers, whether glass, plastic or metal, refundable at specified collection points. This would lead to more recycling, with costs reduced by automatic sorting of materials, a saving on the volume of domestic waste going to landfill and a reduction in incidental litter.

I distinctly recall, as a child, redeeming deposits on lemonade bottles as the manufacturers wanted to use them again. It was a sensible arrangement.

Yours sincerely,
SELBY MARTIN,
Woodmoor,
6 Rad Valley Gardens,
Shrewsbury SY3 8AU,
June 25.

England's defeat

From Mr Peter Grafton

Sir, If David Beckham had behaved yesterday more like a mature sportsman and less like a spoilt and petulant child, England might well have beaten Argentina before extra time.

His colleagues played magnificently and courageously without him, though ultimately to no avail, and I am glad to hear that he has apologised for having let them, and his country, down so badly.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GRAFTON,
57 Padbrook,
Limpfield,
Oxted, Surrey RH8 0DZ,
July 1.

From Mr Stephen Thorning

Sir, The BBC shown 2, won 2. ITV: shown 2, lost 2.

Surely based upon results alone the BBC deserves the right to televise all major sporting events without the need to pay through the nose to do so.

Yours supportively,
STEPHEN THORNING,
Paddington House,
Hartley Wintney,
Hampshire RG27 8HH.
stephen.thorning@virgin.net
July 1.

From Mr Adrian Brodikin

Sir, Will the Secretary of State for Education now ensure that penalty-taking is made a compulsory part of the school curriculum, well in advance of the 2000 European championships and 2002 World Cup?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, N2 0EL,
July 1.

OBITUARIES

SIR MICHAEL MANN

Sir Michael Mann, PC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, died in hospital of an infection on June 14 aged 67. He was born on December 9, 1930.

Michael Mann sat in judgment over some of the most publicised cases of the day during his 13 years as a judge, first in the High Court and then in the Court of Appeal. He was one of three judges who in 1991 quashed the convictions of the Maguire Seven, imprisoned 16 years before after being accused of operating an IRA bomb factory. In the following year he was widely quoted after the convictions of four City advisers in the Blue Arrow fraud trial, the second longest criminal trial in English legal history, were similarly reversed. The prosecution which had cost £40 million was, he said, "a costly disaster which must never be repeated".

It was Michael Mann who, in the same year, decided that Kevin Maxwell should be made to disclose what he knew of the money missing from the Mirror Group pension funds following the death of his father Robert Maxwell.

His cases in the High Court included the 1985 trial of three men charged with killing a taxi driver by dropping a concrete block on his cab while he was driving a minicab to work during the pit strike. Their convictions were later reduced from murder to manslaughter on appeal because Mann himself this time was held to have misdirected the jury — although he was largely absolved from blame because the guidelines for judges had been faulty.

In 1989, some 12 months after he had been elevated to the Court of Appeal, Mann was one of three judges who upheld the legality of the 1988 Act prohibiting Spanish trawlers from being registered in this country — at least until it had been superseded by European law. On another occasion, he ruled against Lord Rees-Mogg who had tried to prevent the Government from ratifying the Maastricht treaty on the ground that it had exceeded its powers.

But by no means all his opinions were welcome in Whitehall. In the mid-1980s, while still sitting in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, he judged Sir



Michael Mann (pointing) with protesters in the Vale of Belvoir, subject of an application to mine coal by the NCB in 1979

Norman Fowler, then Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, to have exceeded his powers in trying to cut the unemployment pay of residents on the so-called "Costa del Dole" — those who were filling up seaside boarding houses and refusing to budge.

His ruling affected about 70,000 claimants and a social security board and lodgings budget which had risen from £50 million in 1979 to £380 million five years later. But Mann said that such a decision was one for Parliament, not a mere minister.

Born in Streatham, South London, Michael Mann was the son of a civil engineer who had been chief engineer during the building of the nuclear power station at Dounreay. The family moved to Sanderstead when he was

young and he went to Whitgift School, where his academic progress was slow until he reached the sixth form.

He then went to King's College London to read law, only to miss his expected first by failing his Roman Law paper. Nonetheless, he was accepted as a postgraduate and wrote a thesis on international law for his PhD. Called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1953, he worked for a while as a part-time legal assistant in the Foreign Office and also lectured at the London School of Economics, continuing to do so until 1964.

But in 1955 he was also persuaded to start practising at the Bar, and did so for the next 27 years, specialising in planning law. He even interrupted his honeymoon in 1957 to handle Paddington Borough Council's planning application to install parking meters. Michael Mann was junior counsel to the Land Commission (Common Law) between 1967 and 1971 and took silk in the following year. He became a Crown Court recorder in 1979 and was made a High Court judge in 1982.

He won national publicity for the first time in 1979 when he was appointed inspector of the National Coal Board's application to mine 510 million tons of coal in the Vale of Belvoir. The local opposition was led by the Duke of Rutland of Belvoir Castle, and more than twenty barristers, including seven QCs, were involved in the bitterly contested hearing. Mann found for the NCB, which argued that its scheme would provide more than

4,000 jobs over the next 80 years — although, as events turned out, the Government called a halt to it anyway.

Mann became a bencher of Gray's Inn in 1980, master of the estate in 1993 and chairman of the management committee. In 1994, he was president of the Administrative Law Bar Association in 1993. He also jointly edited four editions of Dicey's (now Dicey and Morris's) *Conflict of Laws* between 1957 and 1980. Appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in 1988, he retired three years ago on grounds of ill-health.

Mann was known for the meticulous precision of his judgments and the relish with which he cut through all bureaucracy and red tape. Outside the Royal Courts of Justice he was a rather private

man with cerebral interests which were relieved by an appetite for P.G. Wodehouse. An amateur historian, he wrote more than one letter to *The Times* on the Battle of Britain which he had witnessed all too closely as a boy in suburban Surrey. He never learnt to drive because of poor eyesight. Far from gregarious, the only club he belonged to was the Athenaeum, but he gave even that up after a while because he found he rarely went there, preferring to get out of London at the end of the day and go home.

His marriage to his first wife Jean, whom he had known since school days, was dissolved in 1988 after more than 30 years and he is survived by his second wife Audrey, two sons by his first marriage and a stepdaughter.

JOHN ALLEN

John Allen, political speechwriter to Harold Wilson, died on June 23 aged 66. He was born on May 26, 1932.

JOHN ALLEN — along with Terry Pitt, his slightly younger contemporary who served as head of the Labour Party's Research Department — was one of the outstanding casualties of modern British politics. Both men had been close to Harold Wilson and seemed to have the gates of paradise opened to them when he came to power in October 1964. But the careers of neither prospered thereafter — partly, no doubt, owing to human frailty but also thanks to bad luck.

Of the two, Allen had the more colourful time at the centre of politics. Travelling with Wilson throughout the 1964 election campaign (from which Labour emerged with a majority of just four seats) he immediately moved with the new Prime Minister into No 10, once Wilson took over from Sir Alec Douglas-Home on October 16, 1964.

But Allen's period at the heart of government was to prove a short and chequered one. Conducting a brief fling with Harold Wilson's long-serving and very powerful political secretary, Marcia Williams (later Lady Falkender), he was accused of trifling with her affections — and, when he disclaimed any serious intentions, was in 1965 banished as an economic adviser to Botswana.

He had, however, his champions at court — and, partly through the lobbying of Wilson's chief economic adviser, Thomas Balogh, was eventually allowed back to London (though only to return to the Research Department in Transport House, and not to No 10). By 1970, however, Wilson's heart had softened and Allen was permitted to rejoin the election team, where he resumed his speechwriting duties.

No doubt, had that election been won, his whole position might have been rehabilitated. But, against most of the pollsters' predictions, Wilson lost to Edward Heath on June 18,

1970 — and ever afterwards felt uncomfortable in the company of those he associated with the defeat.

Allen's days in No 10 were at an end — and so also was his hoped-for political career, when before the February 1974 election he lost the Labour nomination for his father's old seat of Crewe to Gwyneth Dunwoody by just five votes in a hotly fought selection conference.

John Scholefield Allen was one of the two sons of Sydney Scholefield Allen, QC, Labour MP for Crewe, 1945-74. Brought up in Hampstead Garden Suburb, he won a scholarship to Christy College, Cambridge, where he enjoyed the reputation of being one of the more brilliant undergraduates of his generation. He took a first in economics and greatly impressed the then University Reader in the subject, Nicky Kaldor — another friendship that was to do him no harm when the later emerged as special adviser to the Chancellor, James Callaghan, in 1964.

Allen's later years were rather sad. There was no summons to return when Wilson formed his third Government in March 1974, and he settled down in his early forties to a premature retirement, mainly devoted to eating and drinking (his size became gargantuan). He made a point of going every autumn to the Labour Party conference, appearing more and more as a ghost from times past.

His old interests flickered back to life during the 1991 election in his home constituency of Monmouth, and he was further delighted when the Labour candidate won (though even here there was pain as well as pleasure, since it was a part of the world he had once aspired to represent himself).

John Allen had been married and was divorced. His former wife Philippa, who worked for many years for the BBC in Bush House and enjoyed a considerable fame at one stage as a BBC TV presenter, survives him. They had no children.



Vasey: biblical scholar who championed gay rights

THE REV MICHAEL VASEY

The Rev Michael Vasey, lecturer in theology and liturgy at St John's College, Durham, died on June 28 aged 52 after a heart attack. He was born on January 23, 1946.

ALTHOUGH by no means the only clerical upholder of gay rights within the Church of England, Michael Vasey's support for the cause always had special significance. A totally unapologetic, conservative Evangelical — he had trained for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and held his only curacy in the traditionally Protestant parish of Tonbridge — Vasey was

also a biblical scholar of some renown.

For the past 25 years he had held a tutorship at St John's College, Durham, and was a member of the current General Synod, having previously served on the Anglican Liturgical Commission. This made him a particularly formidable (and embarrassing) opponent for those in such Protestant organisations as Reform who have consistently based their objections to homosexuality on biblical texts. Outspoken traditionalists, such as David Holloway, a leader of Reform and the vicar of Jesmond, experienced far more difficulty in dealing with a pillar of their

own school of churchmanship than they did with those much more expected gay champions from the Anglo-Catholic or liberal wings of the Church of England.

Michael Richard Vasey had a conventional enough education, going to school at Shrewsbury and moving on from there to Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1968. The next two years he spent preparing for ordination at Wycliffe Hall before serving his title (his only parochial experience) at Tonbridge Parish Church.

He first arrived at Durham in 1973 and for many years there was nothing to single him out from most of his clerical, academic colleagues. In 1989, however, he was set upon and robbed by two youths who had met him in a gay bar. This appears to have had the effect of persuading him formally to "come out" and in February 1991 he published a pamphlet entitled *Evangelical Christians and Gay Rights*. With its defence of "cruising" and "cottageing" — and its assertion that Jesus himself would have felt completely at home in a gay bar — this pamphlet certainly succeeded in provoking a flutter in the Anglican devotes. But, despite the predictable protests from those whom the caustic Bishop Hensley

Henson (also of Durham) scorned described as inhabiting "the Protestant underworld", the pamphlet in fact provoked a far more muted reaction than did his subsequent book *Strangers and Friends* (1995).

By 1995, of course, Vasey was an elected member of the General Synod and — since that body has from the late 1970s provided the cockpit for the controversy over homosexual clergy — this alone was probably enough to guarantee the work maximum publicity. (It was certainly no hindrance that in the 1995 General Synod elections clergy in favour of gay rights should have topped the poll in two separate dioceses.)

But it looked as if Vasey had managed to ride out the storm. Even some bishops have come to recognise that there must be an anomaly in a position whereby homosexual practices that are permitted for the clergy, and, in his own case, the evident seriousness of Vasey's approach to the subject probably acted as some form of breastplate. When Vasey was struck down, he was actively looking forward to attending the coming meeting of the General Synod to be held in York this weekend. He never married.



Allen: after a period at the heart of the Wilson Government he was banished as an adviser to Botswana in 1965

PERSONAL COLUMN

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All agents. Visa/insurance, hotels, transport, car hire, flights, long-term deals. 0181 254 2424. Retail Agents: ASTA 01432.

FLATSHARE

CHISWICK, W4, double room in furnished house with garden. Shared with 2 other people. Rent £50 - £600 per week. Call 01753 559 5491.

EAST GREENWICH

Room to let in 3 bed house, newly refurbished. Shared with 2 other people. Rent £50 - £600 per week. Call 01753 559 5491.

FLATMATES

FLATMATES (Est 1970). If you have space to let in your home, we can help you find a tenant. Call 01753 559 5491.

FLATMATES

FLATMATES (Est 1970). If you have space to let in your home, we can help you find a tenant. Call 01753 559 5491.

SITUATIONS VACANT

BAKELANDS CHIEF wanted to cook authentic Bangladeshi food. Call 01753 559 5491.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hotels to Europe, USA & more. Cheap flights, travel services. Call 0171 720 2301. ASTA 25703 LATA ASTA 1356.

RENTALS

CHELSEA 5 bed house, 3 bed, 2 bed, 1 bed, 0 bed. Call 0171 584 7248 (even).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880.

COURT & SOCIAL

PORTFOLIOING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES. Please send Court page announcements to: Mrs J. Newman, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London, E1 9ES. Tel: 0171 762 7547 Fax: 0171 762 7525.

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION

You Can Live and Work in the U.S.A. Learn about the Green Card and Business Visa. Get Your Questions Answered. Information Seminar. Monday 6th July 1998 - 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm at the London Hilton on Park Lane, Park Lane, London.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCE IT THROUGH THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

CLASSIFIED

0171 481 4000

TRAGEDY AT SEA

Film Record of the Titanic

The sinking of the *Titanic* has been dramatised on several occasions, and the subject has been examined from different aspects — as one of the greatest disasters in maritime history, as an essay in human courage, as an event that symbolised the passing of an age, and as a warning against man's complacency, and his belief in the indestructibility of human inventions. A *Night to Remember*, a British film which opens tomorrow at the Odeon, Leicester Square, is concerned with all of these, but it also covers new ground. The screenplay by Mr Eric Ambler is based on the book by Mr Walter Lord, a factual and detailed account of the incidents which occurred in the Atlantic on the night of Sunday, April 14, 1912, and it has clearly been the purpose of the director, Mr Roy Baker, to examine the disaster factually, and in equal detail. The film lasts for two hours, and it is no doubt by design that the events leading up to the collision with the iceberg only occupy the first 30 minutes, so that the time taken to describe the sinking is approximately the same as that which the *Titanic* actually took to go down. The drama inherent in this disaster, as Mr

ON THIS DAY

July 2, 1958

Made 40 years ago, this film about the sinking of the *Titanic* may have lacked some of the spectacular effects of the recent Hollywood epic, but the screenplay of Eric Ambler and the pacing of the build-up by the director Roy Baker made a strong impression. Baker is at pains to establish, lay in the fact that there was no sudden, stunning impact which made the passengers immediately conscious of their grave danger. All that happened was a glancing blow which scarcely produced a shudder, and thereafter the great vessel settled quietly down in a calm sea under a peaceful, starlit sky. Even the captain did not at first realise the full significance of what had happened, and many of the passengers continued to sleep peacefully in their beds. Orders to don lifebelts and to go to the boat deck were not given until half an hour later, and it was not until the ship had taken on a

serious list that the first signs of alarm, and the first stirrings of panic, began to make hold of those on board.

Carefully, almost too scrupulously, Mr Baker presents his audience with a cross-section of the ship and of the passengers on board her, moving his cameras from the bridge to the engine room, from the steerage quarters to the first-class saloons, while at the same time building up the sense of bewilderment and incomprehension on board the other vessels in the Atlantic who are receiving by wireless the seemingly unbelievable news that the *Titanic* is sinking on her maiden voyage. And all the time another ship, the cargo liner *Californian*, lies motionless within sight of the sinking ship, and almost within hailing distance of her, but stubbornly refuses to become conscious of the tragedy that is being played out only a few miles away.

The strength of this film lies in the acute sense of participation which it arouses in its audience, and the mounting tension which it creates. Mr Kenneth More leads a strong cast whose performances are kept subordinate to the central character in the narrative, which is the *Titanic* herself, and the crowd scenes in the final, dreadful phase of mounting panic and terror, have been filmed with horrifying realism.

PHONE 01753 559 5491

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS

Bronwen Maddox
on Shanghai's
risks and rewards
PAGE 33



ARTS

The only man
on the island is
Harrison Ford
PAGES 38-41



SPORT

History beckons as
Henman moves
into semi-finals
PAGES 46-56

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
54-55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JULY 2 1998

Handling of issue prompts complaints SFA launches inquiry into Thomson float

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Securities and Futures Authority, the City regulator, has taken the unprecedented step of launching a formal investigation into the handling of the Thomson Travel Group's £1.7 billion share flotation after thousands of complaints from private investors.

The companies under scrutiny are Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, TTG's financial adviser; Warburg Dillon Read, the global co-ordinator to the offer; and the five appointed share shops which handled the one million initial registrations which resulted in 500,000 formal applications for shares.

The share shops are the Share Centre, Barclays Stockbrokers, NatWest Stockbrokers, Skipton Building Society's dealing service, and Hargreaves Lansdown stockbrokers.

All those companies being investigated could be publicly fined, reprimanded, or even struck off the register if they are found to have breached the SFA's rules and principles.

The investigation will look at whether the timetable for applications was adequate, whether too few share shops were appointed and how the share shops dealt with the backlog of applications.

The SFA will also attempt to mediate in disputes between investors and the share shops in order to reach a fair settlement.

The SFA has received com-

plaints from individuals who were frustrated in their attempts to apply for Thomson shares in May.

A total of 150 complaints and 650 inquiries were logged at the SFA from individual investors. A further 5,000 complaints were made directly to share shops.

Initially, the SFA looked at complaints on an *ad hoc* basis, but having completed the process last month, it announced yesterday it was launching a formal investigation into the matter.

TTG shares floated in May at an issue price of 170p and reached a high of 190p. Yesterday the shares slipped 1p to

Commentary 31

close at 184p. The offer was far more successful than either TTG or the share shops had anticipated, partly because travel perks and discounts were attached to the shares. TTG announced last month it was extending the shareholders' perks scheme.

If the SFA finds any of the companies involved have breached the rules, complainants may have recourse to the SFA's compensation scheme from which individuals can claim up to £50,000.

A spokeswoman for the SFA said: "Complainants are concerned either that they registered with a share shop and did not receive an application,

or registered and received an application too late."

Warburg Dillon Read said it intended to "co-operate with the regulator" but said it was "inappropriate to make any comment until the investigation is complete".

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said: "We do not want to prejudice the SFA's findings." Asked whether the investigation would affect the company's ability to pitch for new business of a similar nature, a spokesman said: "I do not see why it should."

TTG, which is not regulated by the SFA and is therefore not being investigated, said: "We welcome the SFA's decision to act as conciliator."

The Share Centre has already admitted that it had a problem with a mailing house which meant there was a delay in some applicants receiving registration forms. Gavin Oldham, Share Centre chief executive, said: "We have put on a special free dealing service for people who were affected by this problem."

The SFA said investors should complain first to the relevant share shop, and if they were still not satisfied then it could be forwarded to the SFA's Complaints Bureau.

A spokeswoman said: "Where conciliation fails, the complainant may refer the matter to the Consumer Arbitration Scheme for consideration by an independent arbitrator with the power to make a binding award."



In fashion: shares in Gucci leapt higher on the New York and Amsterdam stock exchanges as speculation continued that Prada, whose collection is pictured above, intends to lift its 9.5 per cent stake. A denial by Patrizio Bertelli, president of Prada, that he is seeking to raise \$100 million to help to fund purchases of Gucci shares failed to quash speculation that he has Gucci in his sights

British Biotech director 'withheld bad news'

By PAUL DURMAN

PETER LEWIS, the former research and development director of British Biotech, withheld bad news about the company's drug trials because he was keen to cash in his share options, MPs were told yesterday.

Andy Miller, dismissed in April as British Biotech's director of clinical research, told the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee that Dr Lewis had behaved "treacherously" in failing to pass on his misgivings about the company's business plan that were based on the disappointing drug trial results.

He said Keith McCullagh, British Biotech's chief executive, had agreed with this assessment, and in May last year said he would sack Dr Lewis. Dr Lewis was never fired but that "from that day forward Dr Lewis did not return to his office on a routine daily basis".

Dr Miller said: "During the first four months [of 1997], the business plans were very optimistic but I was giving Dr Lewis some very pessimistic information." Asked to suggest a motive for Dr Lewis's actions, he said: "I feel that Dr Lewis had been acting so that he could keep the share price up so that he could cash his share options."

Dr Lewis is understood to have made about £1.5 million from his share options last year. British Biotech's share price has since collapsed from over 200p to a low of 30p.

MPs heard that British Biotech stuck to the optimistic business plan that required it to spend £60 million a year. This eventually led to Dr Miller's dismissal.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5919.9 (+87.4)
Yield	2.75%
FTSE All share	2777.21 (+33.75)
Nickel	16382.09 (+532.62)
New York	8012.55 (+81.53)
Dow Jones	1140.41 (+6.57)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (6.75%)
Long Bond	107% (107%)
Yield	5.62% (6.63%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	7% (7.1%)
Life long (9p)	108.75 (108.85)

STERLING	
New York	1.6610* (1.6677)
London	1.6610* (1.6688)
DM	3.0175 (3.0116)
FF	10.1100 (10.0880)
Sfr	8.5381 (8.5306)
Yen	202.51 (201.58)
£ Index	107.1 (107.0)

US \$ DOLLAR	
London	1.5172* (1.5075)
DM	6.0919* (6.0625)
FF	1.5282* (1.5203)
Yen	138.72* (138.07)
£ Index	112.8 (112.2)

TOKYO CLOSING	
Brant 15-day (Sep)	\$13.90 (\$13.90)
London close	\$295.45 (\$295.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Volvo talks

Volkswagen and Volvo could be the next two major car manufacturers to join forces after holding talks that could lead to a merger in direct response to the £55 billion union of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler.

Page 30: Commentary page 31

Not so slick

Oil refiners in Europe face a £30 billion investment bill to meet stiff new EU emission standards agreed in Brussels for diesel and petrol.

Regulator gives leaks warning

By RICHARD MILES

CITY regulators are clamping down on investment banks that privately divulge sensitive information to third parties during an acquisition or merger deal.

Corporate finance departments are believed to have been warned by the Securities and Futures Authority about passing on information that would be price-sensitive or even misleading if released into the public domain.

While a bank's clients can always take legal action if they believe they have suffered a loss by being misled during negotiations with corporate advisers, the SFA is keen to take preventive action.

The chief executive of one merchant bank with a sizeable corporate finance team said: "Although we have had no trouble with the SFA, we do have the impression that it is

trying to tighten the rules." Last month, the Financial Services Authority, the super-watchdog that will officially take over the SFA's responsibilities from 2000, unveiled a series of proposals to crack down on market abuses, principally the dissemination of sensitive information.

City analysts fear that their private talks with companies, typically in the run-up to a trading statement, might also be banned as regulators try to limit the amount of information that is not first disclosed to the market.

Corporate financiers have been sued for passing on misleading information during deals, most notably Samuel Montagu — now part of HSBC's investment banking arm — which had to pay out an estimated £140 million over a failed deal in 1987.

Doubt over benefits project

By RICHARD MILES

DELAYS to a £1 billion Post Office project to automate the payment of benefits have cast doubt over the next phase of its development.

A government review is considering whether the Post Office should roll out the Pathway system designed by ICL, the computer group, across its 19,000 outlets, given that the project is almost two years behind schedule. The review, by the Department of Social Security, DTI and Treasury, is expected to produce its report on Pathway in the next few months.

Patricia Hewitt, a member of the Social Security Select Committee, said she had asked the Government to clarify its plans for Pathway, but had been told much of the data was commercially confidential.

Yen continues to strengthen

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Japanese yen strengthened yesterday amid growing market optimism that Tokyo will finally take action to boost its flagging economy by cutting taxes and reforming its ailing banks.

The yen's revival supported other troubled markets in the region and also lifted London and New York. The FTSE 100 rose 87.4 at 5919.9 while the Dow Jones was trading up 55 points.

The Japanese Government said it had approved a framework for a "bridge" bank to help clear the country's ailing financial sector of bad loans. Full details are expected to be released today. There are also hopes of permanent tax cuts of up to 4 trillion yen (£17 billion) in order to boost consumer confidence.

The yen climbed from 139 to the dollar to 137.5 in Asian

trade. However, it slipped slightly to 138.6 to the dollar in European trade although it remained confidently above its recent low of 146.75.

Tokyo's Nikkei index rose 3.4 per cent to 16,362.89. South Korea was up 7 per cent and markets in Singapore and Malaysia also registered gains of around 3 per cent. Indonesia climbed higher for the fourth consecutive day as a plan to reschedule the country's massive corporate debt finally came into effect.

By contrast, the South African rand came under attack. At one stage it fell to a record low of 6.20 to the US dollar before rumours that the Central Bank governor had been sacked were quashed.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 1 per cent on the first anniversary of the hand-over from Britain.

Ladbroke bid puts MMC in extra time

By DOMINIC WALSH



Jones: Tote may buy shops

EXTRA TIME has been given to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) to complete its report on Ladbroke's £363 million Coral takeover, amid speculation that it will recommend the group be forced to sell off half the betting shops it has bought.

The MMC was originally due to submit its report to the Government next Tuesday, but Nigel Griffiths, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, announced yesterday that he had agreed to a request for an extension until the end of the month.

He said there were "special reasons" why the MMC could not meet the original deadline, in particular "the unusually large number of submissions", both by third parties and by Ladbroke itself.

But industry sources believe the real reason for the MMC's request for more time is to allow it to come up with a formula for preserving a strong third big player in the betting shop market behind Ladbroke and William Hill without blocking the deal altogether.

Opponents of the deal, which gives Ladbroke an extra 833 UK shops to add to its existing 1,900, argue that the resultant 29 per cent share of total UK betting turnover would allow it to dominate the market. Conversely, Ladbroke has based its arguments on the 440-yard rule that has governed local competition since 1989, it pre-arranged to sell on 133 shops to the Tote to satisfy the rule.

It seems that the MMC — contrary to the views of the Office of Fair Trading, from which Ladbroke took unofficial soundings before the deal —

believes the 440-yard rule has become irrelevant, and is now intent on forcing Ladbroke to sell up to 500 shops.

The Government recently announced plans for a partial privatisation of the Tote, and there have been suggestions that Peter Jones, its highly regarded chairman, could launch a bid for the extra shops in conjunction with either a management buyout or a flotation of the organisation.

Any substantial forced sell-off would be a blow to Ladbroke, and its shares were marked 11p lower to 318p on news of the delay to the MMC report. However, one analyst said last night: "As long as the thing isn't completely blocked, a watered-down deal would still be positive for Ladbroke. But it would certainly take the gloss off it."

Commentary, page 31

James Capel welcomes Private Clients

We are one of the leading investment managers for private clients.

Our investment strategy is formulated at the highest level but your portfolio is personalised to your own unique needs, not pooled with others.

We care about our clients. As well as tailor-made portfolios we offer something more - access to your own portfolio manager at any time of day.

You also have the assurance of the professionalism you would expect from a member of the HSBC Group, one of the leading banking and financial services organisations in the world.

The Private Client Specialist.



James Capel Investment Management

Member HSBC Group

For more information on how we manage portfolios of £200,000 or more, please call Simon Corbett or Nandita Khanna on 0171 336 9195, fax them on 0171 283 3187 or write to them at the address below.

6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7JQ

email: nandita.khanna@jamescapelhsbc.com

James Capel Investment Management is a trading name of HSBC Investment Bank plc

Registered office: 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BL

Regulated by SFA and a member of the London Stock Exchange

HUGE
INGS ON
RECORDS,
IT MUSIC,
JODWIND
PHONE
JNDON
J4976
Derek Street,
plmg Centre,
003909
asked to prove.

Industry jobless numbers rising

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

MANUFACTURING employment is falling at its fastest rate since the height of the last recession, a new survey published yesterday shows.

The June purchasing managers' survey confirmed that the sector remains mired in a technical recession with the activity index falling for the third consecutive month.

A separate business sentiment survey by the Institute of Directors (IoD) also showed that there has been a dramatic collapse in business optimism. The IoD said that there had been a decline in average pay settlements from 4.5 per cent to 4.1 per cent during the quarter.

Ruth Lea, Head of the IoD policy unit, said the figures showed the economy is slowing and that the Bank of England should resist the urge to raise rates again next week.

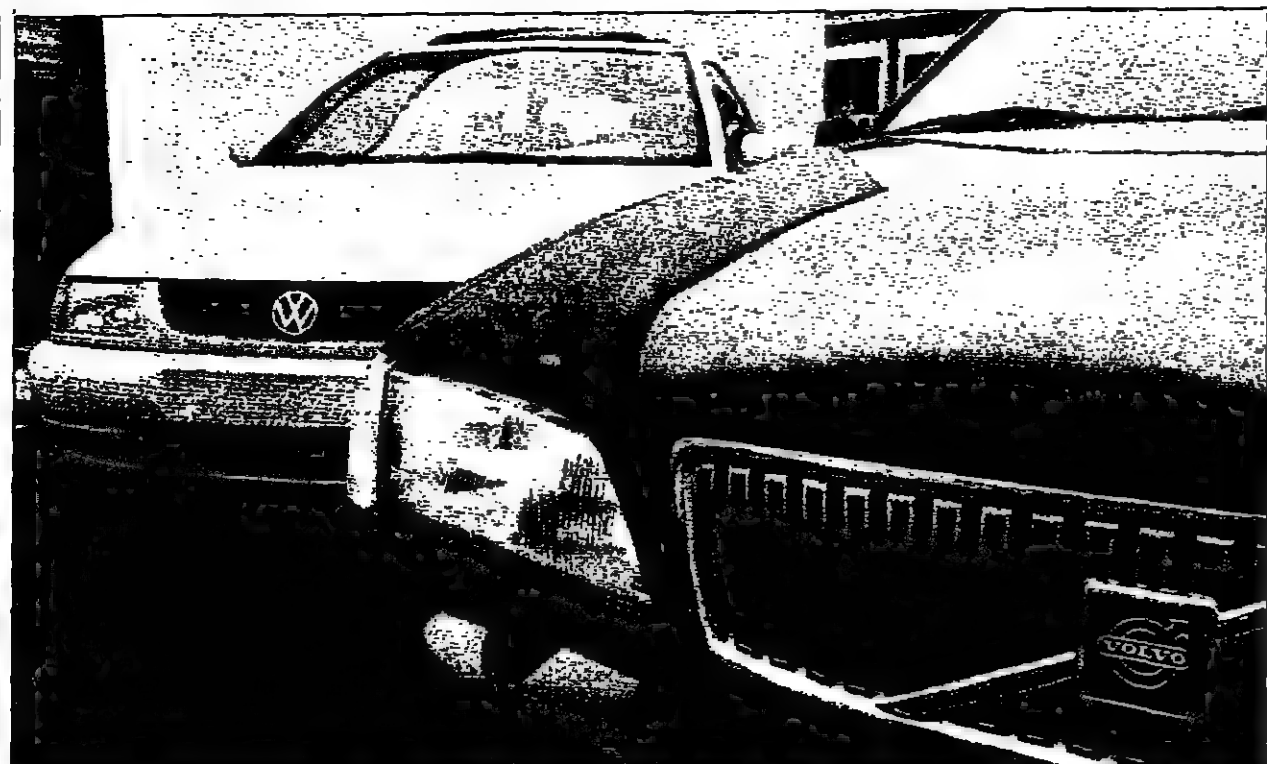
The Purchasing Managers' employment measure fell from 48.4 to 46.0 — the lowest level since January 1993 — while output registered its sharpest fall for over two years.

Overall order levels also slumped to their lowest levels since November 1995. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing Surveyors, which produces the survey, said manufacturers were suffering from the strong pound eroding exports and affecting domestic sales.

One bright spot in the survey was a fall in average input prices indicating that there is virtually no inflation in the sector.

Economists said the data pointed to a further decline in the official manufacturing data and showed the labour market was turning downwards.

Adam Cole, UK economist at HSBC Securities, said the data would make little difference to the debate on rates because the "inflation concerns of the MPC relate largely to the 80 per cent of the economy not covered by the survey".



Bumper to bumper: carmakers are under increased pressure in the wake of the union of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler

VW and Volvo in talks over possible merger

By ADAM JONES

VOLKSWAGEN and Volvo could be the next two giants of the car industry to join forces after holding talks that could lead to a merger.

Ferdinand Piech, chairman of Volkswagen, met Leif Johansson, president and chief executive of Volvo, in Gothenburg, Sweden, last Friday.

Neither company would say what was discussed, but a source close to them said: "There is some form of collaboration going on that may or may not lead to a merger."

Carmakers are under pressure to come up with a riposte to the \$92 billion (£55 billion) merger of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler. VW has been busy expanding at the top end of the car market with the purchase of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and Lamborghini, but these moves are dwarfed by Daimler-Benz.

VW already supplies car diesel engines to Volvo, which accepts that it needs partners as the global industry consolidates. The Swedish group was poised to merge with Renault but the alliance fell apart in 1993 amid distrust over the French Government's privatisation plans and its desire to retain a "golden share". How-

ever, it is possible that any collaboration between Volvo and VW could be limited to specific projects.

Volvo had sales of £14 billion last year, with net profits of £779 million. VW had sales of £37.5 billion and net profits of £451 million.

VW refused to comment on the talks but Volvo confirmed that Mr Johansson and Mr

Piech met last Friday. VW is keen to enter the heavy truck market, where Volvo is a major player.

Steve Young, an automotive consultant at AT Kearney, the management consultant, said a Volvo/VW link in trucks would make sense. However, he added: "There is a fairly direct conflict between Audi and Volvo in passenger cars."

VW's purchase of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is due to be completed on Friday, Michael Shrimpton, a barrister leading a group of owners, has vowed to continue attempts to come up with a counter-bid, although any progress is unlikely to disturb the conclusion of the sale to VW.

Commentary, page 31

Profit turns Kingston into a smart operator

By CHRIS AYRES

KINGSTON COMMUNICATIONS, the Hull telecoms company, is considering a stock market flotation, yesterday announced profits of £11.6 million, compared with a loss the previous year of £500,000 after £5.5 million restructuring costs.

The company, which charges Hull residents only 5p for all local calls, said sales had risen 18 per cent to £128 million. It also plans in the near future to launch the first UK commercial ADSL service

— which makes Internet connections up to 30 times faster than at present.

Kingston, owned by Hull City Council, said Torch Telecom, which it recently bought from Yorkshire Electricity, had moved into profit in the final quarter.

Steve Maine, chief executive, said: "Our Hull area business has again performed well and we have made the first step towards rolling out the successful Torch model of providing broadband business services."

Eagle Star to shed 540 staff in restructuring

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BAT INDUSTRIES is to cut 540 jobs at its Eagle Star subsidiary, part of BAT's financial services division that is to merge with Zurich, the giant Swiss insurer.

The jobs are to go as part of a restructuring of Eagle Star's commercial insurance business that will involve a number of branch closures.

It comes as British American Financial Services, BAT's insurance arm, prepares to merge with Zurich in the late autumn, leaving BAT to concentrate on its cigarette-making businesses.

Halifax confirms housing slowdown

By SUSAN EMMETT

FEARS that the housing market is slowing down were confirmed yesterday by the Halifax.

The largest mortgage lender said that, as the economy weakens and interest rates go up, fewer people are buying houses. The number of property transactions fell to 108,000 in May, a drop of more than 10 per cent on last year.

According to the Halifax's house price index, property prices in the UK rose by 1 per cent in June compared with 0.3 per cent in May. The annual rise to June was 5.6 per cent from 5 per cent on the previous month.

However, the Halifax said the 1 per cent increase was higher than expected and that the general trend pointed towards a weaker and more cautious market, which could be affected seriously by another rate rise.

There have been four increases in base rates in 12 months, prompting most big lenders to raise their mortgage rates from 7.95 per cent to 8.95 per cent. The rises have added between £600 and £700 annually to the average mortgage bill.

However, the Halifax said it expected prices to continue rising modestly, as properties remain cheap relative to average earnings, and forecasts that house price inflation will remain at 5 per cent this year, slowing to 4 per cent in 1999.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Akers steps down at Leeds Sporting

CHRIS AKERS yesterday stepped down as chairman of Leeds Sporting, the company which owns Leeds United Football Club, though he is to continue as chief executive. Peter Ridsdale, who took over from Bill Fotherby as chairman of the Premiership football club last year and became a non-executive director of Leeds Sporting in April, has become chairman of the parent company. The move follows pressure from Leeds Sporting shareholders due to the poor performance of the group's share price — which has fallen by two thirds in a little more than a year. Though the football team performed well last season and has qualified for the UEFA Cup, other developments, such as the building of an indoor arena next door to Leeds United's ground at Elland Road, have been progressing slowly.

It is understood the appointment of Mr Ridsdale, whose background is in retailing, will allow Mr Akers to concentrate on developing Leeds Sporting's media interests. Mr Akers led the controversial £18 million takeover of Leeds United two years ago by the company — then called Caspian. The offer went through despite two higher bids for the club being tabled by rival groups. Robin Lauder, whom Mr Akers hired to run Leeds United, left the group last year after Mr Akers said the board had lost confidence in him.

US bank in \$7bn buy

STAR BANC has agreed to buy Firststar for \$7.2 billion (£4.3 billion) in a share swap, paying a 44 per cent premium. The acquisition will give the combined retail bank a strong presence in the American Midwest. American banks have been consolidating to cut costs and expand into new markets. The deal creates a company with \$38 billion in assets and 720 branches in ten states. Star Banc and Firststar estimate that they will reduce their expenses by \$174 million, with half of this saving in 1999 and the remainder in 2000.

Lewis back in business

DEREK LEWIS, the IT consultant who was at the centre of a £3 million pay package disagreement at United Utilities, is back in business. He has set up DataGroup, an IT services company, with the backing of Schroder Ventures after abruptly leaving Vertex Data Services, which runs United's billing operations, and aims to buy IT businesses worth £150 million over the next three years. He said: "Each year we anticipate buying businesses to the value of £50-£100 million, though we will also look at much larger individual deals."

Anglian sheds US arm

ANGLIAN WATER has concluded the disposal of its products divisions with the \$39.2 million (£23.6 million) sale of its US fluid systems membrane operation. The company, through its subsidiary Anglian Water International, has sold three other products businesses over the past year. Its American membrane business was sold to Koch Industries of the US. Chris Mellor, Anglian managing director, said the international division would now concentrate on building, operating and developing process engineering.

Logica buys in Belgium

LOGICA, the fast-growing information technology company, doubled the size of its Belgian operations yesterday with the purchase of Administrat-CIM/Hardi for £9.1 million, funded by bank borrowings. Administrat's focus is on multinational industrial clients. Logica said. For the year ended March 31, Administrat earned revenues of BF649 million (£10.3 million), with pre-tax profits of BF45 million. The company employs 100 full-time staff. Shares in Logica fell 32½p to £19.05, compared with a recent high of £20.62½.

Troubled Ronson to lose chief

By JASON NISSE

WHEN Victor Kiam decided he liked Ronson lighters so much, he would rescue the company, he did not know how much trouble he was taking on. Last night, with Ronson shares suspended and the company unable to produce its report and accounts to schedule, Ronson looked set to lose its second chief executive in a little over a year.

No one at Ronson was able to comment last night, but well-informed sources told *The Times* that Richard Furze, who was brought in as chief executive by Mr Kiam when he bought into Ronson in March, is set to part company with the group.

Mr Furze was said to be

"out of the office" and Laurie Todd, the finance director, said: "I can't talk to you now. I am in a meeting."

Mr Kiam, known for his Remington shavers, bought into Ronson as part of a £6 million fundraising, with shares issued at just 1p each — compared with a peak of over 65p three years ago. The shares briefly rallied to 13p before falling back to 4½p, where they were suspended on Tuesday. The group is expected to show a loss of more than £11 million for the year.

The company's problems hark back to the reign of Howard Hodgson, the flamboyant former funeral director, who took over what was

than a small pub company — Hoskings Brewery — and moved it into lighters.

Mr Hodgson's controversial way of running Ronson included having an affair with Christine Pickles, his corporate development director, and hiring his son, Howard Junior, as a model for the new Ronson leisurewear range.

Both Mr Hodgson senior and Ms Pickles were ousted from the company last year in the wake of a management coup. They are now suing the group for more than £500,000 in compensation for loss of office and Mr Hodgson has found a job working for Colibri, Ronson's arch competitor.



Kiam: liked the company

Devro blames poor first half on currency costs

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DEVRO, the sausage-skin manufacturer based in Scotland, suffered a 27 per cent fall in its share price yesterday after it issued a profits warning.

The shares fell to 136p to 367½p following an announcement that a slowdown in UK demand and reduced earnings from exports due to the strength of sterling would mean that pre-tax profits in the first half will be about £2 million below last year's level.

Analysts swiftly downgraded their forecasts, with Sally Jones of Credit Lyonnais Securities

moving from £65 million pre-tax profit for the current year to £53.5 million.

Graeme Alexander, chief executive, said there was no single reason for the reduction in UK sausage demand this spring. One factor was that poor weather had meant fewer barbecues, but he said the dip had taken everyone by surprise.

The company plans to close some of its production lines in Scotland for some weeks in response to the fall in demand. But Mr Alexander said the company's main problem lay

with the currency markets. Currency translation will account for £1.5 million of the first-half profit drop. "The fundamentals are rock solid," Mr Alexander said.

However, analysts said that some institutional investors are unhappy that last month's trading statement at the annual meeting did not make it clear how bad trade had become, and said this adverse sentiment partly accounted for the dramatic fall in share price.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.77	2.89
Austria Sch	22.19	20.83
Belgium Fr	65.33	60.37
Canada C\$	2.553	2.365
Cyprus Cyp£	0.894	0.853
Denmark Kr	13.08	11.17
Egypt Pound	8.85	8.24
Finland Mk	6.71	6.08
France F	10.57	9.78
Germany Dm	3.18	2.93
Greece Dr	333	494
Hong Kong \$	13.67	12.47
Iceland	131	111
Ireland P	1.25	1.18
Israel Sh	6.48	5.79
Italy Lit	3144	2507
Japan Yen	844.18	255.53
Malta	0.587	0.558
Netherlands Gld	3.588	3.251
New Zealand \$	3.33	3.09
Norway Kr	13.40	12.44
Portugal Esc	350.81	285.78
S Africa Rd	10.58	9.64
Spain Ptas	267.28	248.47
Sweden Kr	14.15	13.05
Switzerland Fr	2.66	2.47
Turkey Lira	444.997	425.119
USA \$	1.705	1.622

Rates for small denominations notes only as supplied by Barclays. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

Tempus, page 32

How can you generate new business? The answer is staring you in the face.



e-business. evolution for business.

For a free guide Freefone 0800 800 800 quoting ref. FATIM or visit us at ebusiness.bt.com

e-business from BT is helping thousands of companies to realise their full potential. We recently provided a leading car rental company with an electronic ordering system on the internet. This means they're now open for business night and day, all year round, all over the world.



مركز من الأصل

Too many Cooks spoil the deal



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The odds are lengthening on Ladbroke winning a favourable monopolies commission ruling for its takeover of the Coral chain. Yesterday's news that the commission has asked to be given until the end of the month to complete its report does not augur well for the deal.

It seems that the commission has been bombarded with submissions from interested parties and the likelihood is that they will have been heavily weighted against Ladbroke. The Foreign Secretary set the tone. When he might have been expected to be deeply involved in affairs of state, Robin Cook was opining that his colleagues at the Department of Trade and Industry should ensure that the deal be subjected to "very clear and close scrutiny".

The President of the Board of Trade may feel tempted to suggest that the involvement of Sandline in international affairs might more properly be occupying the attention of the Foreign Secretary rather than the ownership of British betting shops. But instead, Margaret Beckett seems likely to deliver a verdict that will please Mr Cook, a keen racegoer and columnist on the sport of kings.

While it is unthinkable that the Chancellor would wager his pennies on the horses, it seems that Gordon Brown might also be grateful to his erstwhile ally if she insists, as is being rumoured, that Ladbroke sacrifice half the Coral chain. Who better to buy the shops than the Tote, which has already

done its bit to help ease through Ladbroke's purchase by agreeing to take on the shops that would have clear overlaps with the Ladbroke portfolio?

As Mr Brown parcels up the Tote for his autumn sale, bumping up the business would make sound commercial sense. And Ladbroke would hardly be in a position to be difficult over the price. So certain would be the chief executive, Peter George, and his team that they had read the competition rules correctly and would be allowed to digest virtually all of the Coral chain that they did the deal unconditionally. Canny Bass has collected its £375.5 million and Coral is now Ladbroke's potential problem.

The irony is that the company and its advisers felt that they understood the grounds on which mergers among betting shops would be judged. Now, it seems they did not, or they failed to appreciate the commission's ability to change the rules. Mrs Beckett said in a recent speech on competition policy that her aim was to make it clear and open. When she eventually pronounces on this deal she will have the perfect opportunity to do just that.

Meanwhile, Peter George is considering a deal that makes the

Coral acquisition look puny. Stephen Bollenbach's decision to split Hilton Hotels Corporation into separate hotels and casino businesses is the necessary prerequisite for the long-awaited move to reunite Ladbroke's Hiltons with the US hotels of the same name. The 240 US hotels may be worth almost £5 billion. For Ladbroke's sake, one must hope that the Foreign Secretary does not feel strongly about the ownership of the hotels he uses.

Sinking feeling over Thomson float

You've seen the headlines. Now read the small print. proclaimed yesterday's advertisements for the birth of a new investment bank. The small print detailed a selection of recent deals from what used to be known as SBC Warburg Dillon Read but which now, thanks to the combined

imaginative powers of its Swiss owners, is renamed as ... Warburg Dillon Read. Makes all the difference, doesn't it?

Anyhow, near the bottom of the list of achievements, sandwiched between Textron Inc's bid for Ransomes and a \$4 billion issue for the World Bank is Thomson Travel. The small print boasts that Warburg Dillon Read was the global coordinator for the £1.36 billion Thomson float, "the largest ever corporate IPO in the UK". And yes, the very same issue which yesterday became the subject of a formal inquiry by the Securities and Futures Authority because of extraordinary bungling that led to a stream of complaints from would-be investors.

The global co-ordinator, so keen to take credit for the deal in its advertising, may be less keen to take the responsibility for the errors that beset the issue. Apart from Warburg's involvement, the SFA will be looking at the

role of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, Thomson's financial adviser, and the five appointed share shops which were overwhelmed with one million individual registrations. It will examine whether the timetable set for the float was unreasonable — those who drew it up seemed oblivious, for instance, to the effect a bank holiday might have. It will also query whether the number of shareshops involved was sufficient to cope with the high level of demand for shares. Given that this was a well-known consumer company, making a very strong pitch to private shareholders and luring them with holiday discounts, it was destined to excite the punters.

If the SFA finds fault, it has the powers to reprimand publicly or fine the culprits or even strike them off. While the last, drastic, action seems highly unlikely in this case, the first could be upsetting enough, particularly

for an organisation that has just gone to the trouble of changing its name.

But this is a high profile case for the SFA to undertake and it comes as there is a growing view in the City that Howard Davies is determined that the regulators under his FSA umbrella should not only be tough but be seen to be tough.

Is it life in the slow lane for Piech?

Ferdinand Piech, the chairman of Volkswagen, has spent the past few months chasing every fast car in sight: Bentley, Lamborghini, Bugatti. Is it now time for this scion of the Porsche family to settle down with a nice, safe, reliable Volvo? Yesterday's admission by Volvo that Hiet Piech and Leif Johansson, his opposite number at the Swedish group, had talked had both companies' shares buzzing.

After the Daimler-Chrysler merger, the car industry has been waiting for the next big deal. Volvo has been in play before. A planned merger with Renault collapsed in 1993. Some Volvo shareholders had —

understandably — lost their bottle when faced with the prospect of the French Government holding a "golden share".

VW was named as a potential suitor in the German media last November. It wants to expand in commercial vehicles. Scania, the Swedish truck maker, had been a target, but Volvo is also a big player and a deal would make sense on this basis.

This could be the most VW envisages. The overlap between Audi and Volvo may well be too great for a merger of the two passenger car divisions to make sense. Push aggressively for sales at one and you might harm the other. Redundancies and plant closures would be very expensive in either country.

The industry may have to wait for a US-Japanese merger — Ford and Nissan, say — for a real indication of who will dominate in the new global market.

Power Lynch

MERRILL LYNCH opened its first branch in Japan yesterday and was greeted with the welcoming response of a significant upward leap in the Nikkei index. The Thundering Herd is shrugging off concerns over the region's economic woes and looking to all the Japanese savings that are now likely to be seeking safety abroad. Twenty-seven more Merrill offices will be opening within the month, ready to collect the cash.

Dixons pays £19.5m for showrooms

DIXONS is to close or sell more than 20 Seaboard stores after its £19.5 million takeover of the electrical goods chain (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company said it hopes to retain most of Seaboard's 550 staff.

Dixons is paying £18 million for the business plus stock valued at £1.5 million. The chain has 19 superstores, 20 high street stores and a 17-acre warehouse and office site in Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Seaboard, which is now owned by Central and South West Corporation of the US, has been keen to sell its retail operations to concentrate on its power business. It has been winding down its investment in the shops for several months while seeking buyers.

UK oil producers hit by new emission standards

By CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

STIFF new emission standards for diesel and petrol threaten Britain's oil companies with huge bills at a time when refineries are suffering from poor margins and a Europe-wide fuel glut.

Europe's oil refiners could face a total investment bill of up to £30 billion to meet new targets approved in Brussels last week.

According to Wood Mackenzie, the oil industry consultant, the costs will be substantial to meet new sulphur targets with hydro-treatment units costing about \$75 million (£44 million) apiece.

In Britain BP/Mobil's refinery at Coryton in Wales and the Lindsey refinery owned by Petrofina and Total are believed to face the biggest job in meeting the EU's sulphur

emission target. This requires refiners to cut sulphur in diesel and petrol from 500 parts per million to 50 ppm by 2005. Shell's Stanlow refinery in Cheshire will require more investment. According to Wood Mackenzie, the facility is less well-equipped for low sulphur than the Shell Haven refinery which faces closure.

The investment will further damage the profitability of refineries which are struggling with margins of 2¢ per barrel and an average return on capital of just 4 per cent.

BP has now sold two US refineries, Marcus Hook and Lima — the latter in a \$125 million deal struck yesterday with Clark USA which avoids costs BP would have incurred shutting the plant down.

The company has partially shut down Pernis in Holland but has been unable to find a buyer for its French refinery at Lavera.



Chase restructuring plan

Wood Mackenzie reckons that the green lobby has secured the upper hand and the regulatory outlook could get worse for refiners.

The new emissions regime was agreed following a battle between the European Parlia-

ment which proposed tough measures for a whole range of fuel pollutants. It was only partly watered down by the Council of Ministers which opposed mandatory targets.

Meanwhile, BP's refining arm, which is run by Rodney Chase, deputy chief executive, is being restructured with the aim of producing an extra £250 million of net profit per year by 2002 and a return on capital employed through the cycle of 21 per cent.

BP has now sold two US refineries, Marcus Hook and Lima — the latter in a \$125 million deal struck yesterday with Clark USA which avoids costs BP would have incurred shutting the plant down.

The company has partially shut down Pernis in Holland but has been unable to find a buyer for its French refinery at Lavera.

Benfield buys £25m stake in underwriter

BENFIELD & REA Investment Trust (Bri), the Lloyd's of London investment vehicle, has paid £25 million for a near-30 per cent share in Benfield Re, an underwriter at the insurance market. It has an option to acquire the remainder.

BRIT's strategy is to transform itself from an investment vehicle to an insurance trading company operating at Lloyd's.

BRIT published results for the year to March 31. Its value rose 22 per cent to 147.4p a share. The firm's final dividend of 3.5p, lifts the total to 6.5p from 4p.

John Goldman, the BRIT chairman who replaced Matthew Harding, the late financier of Chelsea Football Club, also told shareholders of his support for change at Lloyd's.

Tempus, page 32

Marston results 'below potential'

By DOMINIC WALSH

A YEAR of boardroom upheaval and reorganisation at Marston, Thompson & Evershed, the regional brewer and pub group, restricted full-year pretax profits to £30.6 million, a rise of just 3.7 per cent.

Nick Letcher, who became chief executive in February, claimed this was "reasonable progress" in the light of the changes, but said the results "do not reflect Marston's full potential".

Mr Letcher, whose appointment precipitated the departure of David Gordon, the managing director, said a priority would be to review returns from its 631-strong tenanted estate. This would involve "taking whatever action is necessary" — a clear hint that the business, which has a net asset value of £127.5 million, could be sold.

In the managed estate, the

group will focus on developing its Pitcher & Piano and Via Vitas brands and reversing a decline in some of its traditional pubs. It plans to open 12 Pitcher & Pianos and two Via Vitas this year at a total cost of about £9 million.

The two brands helped to lift operating profits from managed houses by 13.7 per cent to £25.7 million, while tenancies were up 7.8 per cent to £20.7 million. Brewing and wholesaling, boosted by wider distribution of Pedigree bitter, pushed profits 60 per cent higher to £6.5 million.

The company, which is based in Burton on Trent, is paying a final dividend of 5.9p, making 8.9p (8.03p). Earnings, per share, because of a rise in the tax rate, declined to 24.36p (28.86p).

Tempus, page 32

AN EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP GAME THE TIMES

PLAY TEAM CHECK TO WIN CASH PRIZES WORTH £50,000

PLUS £15,000 AND THREE VAUXHALL CARS TO BE WON THIS WEEK

ITV Prize winners: Week 3 David Janovskis, Manchester, wins a Corsa Breeze and £1,000. Simon Gomersall, Canterbury, wins a pair of tickets to both World Cup Semi-final matches and £1,000. Kevin Manning, Southampton, Clare Curran, Leatherhead and Jack Chew, Ashford, Kent, each win £1,000. William Bradbeer, London SE21, wins a Corsa Breeze, £5,000 plus a pair of tickets to the World Cup Final.

HOW TO PLAY THE TIMES GAME

START PLAYING THE WEEK 4 GAME NOW

The fourth set of names for The Times Week 4 Team Check game on your card appear below. If any of the names match those on your Week 4 Times game panel scratch them off. DO NOT scratch off any names that do not appear on your gamecard will be void. You will reveal a symbol: a football, a whistle, a boot, a cup, a linesman's flag or a footballer. If you have revealed three matching symbols today you have won a share of this Week's Times/Sunday Times £5,000 prize and must make a claim on the Team Check hotline 0191-801 1240 before 3pm today.

MATTHAUS 12
GASCOIGNE 19
GEMMIL 6

MORE PLAYERS' NAMES FOR THE TIMES WEEK 4 GAME WILL BE PRINTED TOMORROW

YOU CAN ALSO PLAY TEAM CHECK IN THE SUNDAY TIMES

HOW TO PLAY THE TEAM CHECK GAME WITH VAUXHALL

Play The Times Week 4 game today for the chance to win up to £5,000 and a Vauxhall Astra when you reveal three matching symbols. There is also a further £10,000 in cash, a Tigra Chequers and a Corsa Breeze to be won by playing the Week 4 ITV/Vauxhall Team Check game this week.

TUNE IN TO ITV TOMORROW

Tune in to ITV's World Cup quarter-finals coverage on Friday of ITALY v FRANCE which will be broadcast live at 3.30pm and BRAZIL v DENMARK at 8pm, for your Team Check numbers for the ITV/Vauxhall Week 4 game on your card. At the beginning and the end of the commercial breaks in these programmes you will see Vauxhall sponsorship clips. DURING EACH CLIP A WHITE TEAM CHECK NUMBER WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE TOP LEFT-HAND CORNER OF THE SCREEN. If any of the highlighted numbers match a number on the silver football shirts on the Week 4 ITV/Vauxhall game on your card, scratch them off. DO NOT scratch off any numbers that do not appear on your gamecard will be void. You will reveal a symbol. If you reveal three identical symbols you have won a share of this week's ITV/Vauxhall £10,000 Team Check prize and must call the claims line between 9.30am and 3pm on Saturday.

NUMBERS FOR THE ITV/VAUXHALL WEEK 4 GAME WILL BE BROADCAST ON FRIDAY

VAUXHALL CARS WORTH £100,000 TO BE WON

Frontiers Estate Transglobe Vectra Arctic Tigra Chequers Astra Club Astra Corsa Breeze

Vauxhall Motor, an official sponsor of World Cup 98 and quarter of ITV's coverage of the tournament, has 10 Vauxhall cars worth over £100,000 to be won. The prizes include 10 Astra GTEs, 10 Vectras, 10 Tigras, 10 Astras, 10 Corsas and 10 Breezes. The cars will be awarded to the winners of the Week 4 game. For more information about the Vauxhall cars and details of your nearest dealer call 01945 420 420 or visit our website.

© 1998 Vauxhall Motors Ltd. All rights reserved. The Vauxhall logo is a registered trademark of Vauxhall Motors Ltd.

E-TICKETING. EASIER THAN A B C.

United Airlines new E-Ticket™ makes travelling abroad child's play. E-Tickets are generated electronically and stored on United's computer system. So there's nothing to lose, misplace or forget. It's the kind of thing that makes your life easier. And it's the kind of thing that makes your expectations E-Tickets. The simple alternative to the paper ticket.

UNITED AIRLINES
RISING

STAR ALLIANCE
The other airlines too.

www.unitedairlines.co.uk

HUGE SINGS ON BOARDS. IT MUSIC. JODWIND
PHONE 020 74976
David Brown, piling Centre, 003909 going to press.

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK
Stock Market Writer
of the Year

Investors take heart from Far Eastern good news

GOOD news from the Far East is a rare commodity, so the market made full use of the latest attempts to deal with Japan's economic woes.

The rise by the Nikkei 225 index back above the 16,000 level for the first time since April set the tone for a relatively strong performance by the London market.

Dealers said any moves to get Japan's ailing economy on the ground should be viewed positively and help draw attention away from the possibility of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee signalling another rise in interest rates next week.

The FTSE 100 index, up 114 points as Wall Street kicked in with early gains, eventually closed 87.4 up at 5,919.9. Total turnover reached 873 million shares.

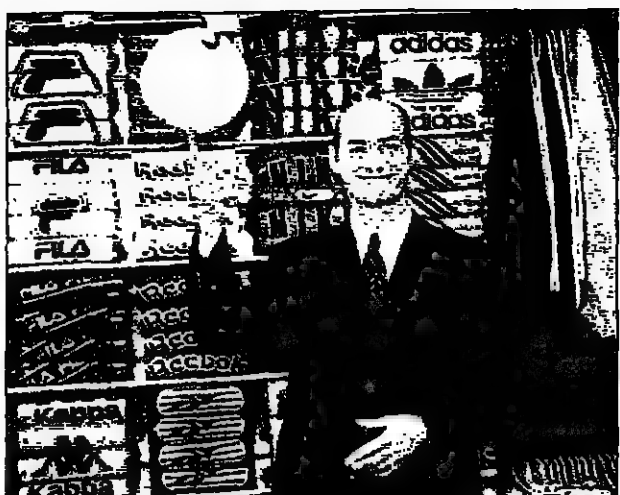
The engineers continued to make headway after comments earlier this week by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, which reckons the sector has been oversold. GKN led the way with a jump of 46p to 810p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, came out with a "buy" recommendation after a presentation by the company. Rival Henderson Crosthwaite has already upgraded its recommendation from "buy" to "strong buy".

Others to go better in the sector included British Steel 54p to 137p, LucasVarity 64p to 244p, and Rolls-Royce 6p to 254p. Still hoping to land a £2.3 billion contract to help supply British Airways with 100 short haul aircraft, British Aerospace advanced 14p to 473p. The shares also benefited from a "buy" recommendation from SBC Warburg Dillon Read, while Charterhouse Tilney has been telling clients to "accumulate".

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, publisher of *The Times*, rose 35p to 434p. It is to carry ten channels belonging to Flextech, 15p better at 567p, and UKTV on its digital satellite platform.

Some bullish comments on current trading lifted United News & Media, publisher of *The Express*, 9p to 857p. Charterhouse Tilney said the shares are a "buy" while Hoare Govett and Henderson Crosthwaite have claimed they were undervalued.

There was a kneejerk reaction to England's dramatic



Simon Bentley, chief executive of Blacks Leisure, who saw his shares drop 6p after England's World Cup failure

exit from the World Cup. JJB Sports, the biggest retailer of replica football shirts, touched 445p before rallying to close all-square at 467p, while Blacks Leisure, which owns First Sport, fell 6p to 315p. Ladbroke, which has been enjoying heavy betting on England's progress through the early stages of the World Cup, dropped 11p to 318p. The

Monopolies and Mergers Commission has also been granted extra time to investigate Ladbroke's proposed acquisition of the Coral betting chain.

News of the bid approach made Abacus Recruitment the best performer among the FTSE 350 index with the price surging 67p to 292p where it is valued at £20.5 million.

Also on AIM, Fibernet eased 3p to 423p after Edward Hailey, financial director, sold 20,000 shares at 420p. It reduced his holding to 0.1 per cent.

GILT-EDGED: Shorter-dated issues outperformed the rest of the market in early trading only to give back those gains later. A firm start by US Treasury bonds in the absence of any rate rise by the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee also bolstered stocks at the longer end of the market.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt rose 0.07 to £108.75 as 58,000 contracts were completed. The short-dated future was £0.10 better at £102.97 on turnover of just 54 contracts.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 9 per cent 2021 put on 7p to £130.4, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was a tick better at £101.75.

NEW YORK: Wall Street reacted positively to signs that action was being taken to correct Japan's fiscal problems. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 61.53 points at 9,013.55.

Loorbo, now solely a mining company, rose 11p to 292p on a turnover of 1.16 million shares thanks to bullish comments coming from the US suggesting the group is worth at least 400p a share.

Fears that sausage skin maker Devro International may have gone ex-growth sent its shares tumbling 136p, or 27 per cent, to 367p making it the worst performing share among the FTSE 250 index. It comes after a shock profits warning that brought to an end five consecutive years of growth. Credit Lyonnais, the broker, has downgraded its recommendation from "buy" to "hold" with Merrill Lynch reducing from "accumulate" to "neutral".

A profits warning also took its toll of Charles Baynes, down 14p to 73p. The engineer said first-half profits would be "below budget" but in line with the £10.62 million achieved last year. The news that Delco is now expected to report a loss of £700,000 left the shares down 35p to 75p.

It was the first day of dealing on AIM for CCM Distribution after a placing by Ellis & Partners, the broker, at 10p. The neoleases distributor managed to establish a small premium of 1p closing at 11p.

Also on AIM, Fibernet eased 3p to 423p after Edward Hailey, financial director, sold 20,000 shares at 420p. It reduced his holding to 0.1 per cent.

GILT-EDGED: Shorter-dated issues outperformed the rest of the market in early trading only to give back those gains later. A firm start by US Treasury bonds in the absence of any rate rise by the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee also bolstered stocks at the longer end of the market.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt rose 0.07 to £108.75 as 58,000 contracts were completed. The short-dated future was £0.10 better at £102.97 on turnover of just 54 contracts.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 9 per cent 2021 put on 7p to £130.4, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was a tick better at £101.75.

NEW YORK: Wall Street reacted positively to signs that action was being taken to correct Japan's fiscal problems. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 61.53 points at 9,013.55.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 9,013.55 (+61.53)
S&P Composite 1,140.41 (+6.57)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 16,362.89 (+532.62)
Dai Nippon 1,401.11 (+14.57)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng Closed

Amsterdam:
AEX Index 1,221.54 (+21.24)
DAX 3,506.85 (+41.41)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2,699.4 (+31.8)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3,506.85 (+41.41)

Singapore:
Straits Times 1,005.10 (+28.44)

Brussels:
General 2,130.79 (+39.14)

Paris:
CAC-40 4,260.68 (+57.23)

Zurich:
SIX Index 1,670.00 (+27.60)

London:
FTSE 100 5,919.9 (+114)
FTSE 250 3,670.0 (+27.5)
FTSE 350 2,920.0 (+67.4)
FTSE All-Share 2,772.1 (+33.75)
FTSE Non Financials 2,837.39 (+29.73)
FTSE Fixed Interest 1,441.12 (+10.13)
FTSE Govt Secs 1,050.07 (+0.01)
Barracuda 60.75
SEAQ Volume 673,440
US 1,692.1 (+0.0003)
German Mark 3,071.1 (+0.0003)
Exchange Index 107.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official rate 4.75%
EBSR 1.2887
RPI 163.5 May (4.2%) Jan 1997=100
RPIX 161.3 May (3.7%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

ATA Group	152p	...
Adval Group	67p	...
Advance Dev Mkt	103	+1
Anglo Siberian Oil	107p	...
Biocipris Warrants	22	...
British Regional Air	163p	...
City Gourmets	65p	...
Dresdner RCM Ltd	98	...
Dresdner RCM Inc	100	...
Dresdner RCM Zero	100	...
ECOF Group	103p	+25
Game	208	...
Goldfield	218p	...
INVECO Ltd	131	...
INVECO Ltd Ssr	93	-1
ITNET (S)	434	-2
Interior Services	135	...
JSB Software Techs	228	...
Murray Financial	114	...
New Look Group	148p	...
Omnia	148p	...
Tricorder Tech	100p	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

LEPCO n/p (40)	2	...
Martin Ind n/p (30)	2	...
Omnia n/p (60)	25	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES		
Firearm Ind	83p (+11p)	
London	137p (+15p)	
Wm Sinclair	191p (+17p)	
Pain	700p (+50p)	
Roife & Nolan	285p (+17p)	
Thorn	248p (+15p)	
Standard Chart	728p (+42p)	
Solent App	802p (+42p)	
GKN	810p (+46p)	

FALLS

Parkland Group	38p (-11p)	
Devro	367p (-136p)	
Balcorn Group	44p (-14p)	
Molins	177p (-38p)	
Charles Baynes	73p (-14p)	
Mitel	813p (-78p)	
Liberty	220p (-17p)	
REA	185p (-10p)	

Closing Prices Page 37

TEMPUS Shareholders skinned

A BUSINESS making sausage skins on the outskirts of Glasgow is about as unglamorous as you can imagine, so it is amazing that Devro managed to secure — albeit briefly — a glamour rating for its shares. Despite worries at the time of its flotation about it being a one-product, high-risk business, investors were eventually convinced that its huge market share and high margins were not about to disappear. The reward was that Devro shares traded at a flattering premium to its peers.

All that has now changed. Although the company gave a pretty glowing trading update at its annual meeting in May, it also reassured its shareholders that things were not as bad as all that. The market received that news stoically: it was not expected that a full-blown profits warning would follow just

over one month later. When the unexpected occurred, as it did yesterday, the shares did not just fall, they were thoroughly deflated.

It is hard to see Devro recovering its credibility quickly. Not only will some shareholders feel they were not given the guidance they would have liked, but all the old worries about Devro's business have returned. Moreover, there is still room for the shares to fall as even the new, lower, profits forecasts depend on a strong recovery in the second half. That worry, and the negative sentiment that comes with a hardened core of disenchanted shareholders, means that Devro's glory days are gone.

After yesterday's exaggerated fall the Devro share price may briefly bounce over the next few days. Let us hope it does, for it is time to look for an exit.

BRIT

THE near-apocalypse at the Lloyd's insurance market five years ago has given rise to some interesting investment opportunities. Step forward Benfield & Rea Investment Trust, once chaired by Matthew Harding, the late Chelsea Football Club financier.

BRIT started life in 1995. Its plan was to mop up and convert value from shares in Lloyd's investment trusts that had been formed to invest, with limited liability, in the famous insurance market. BRIT spotted and capitalised on net asset value discounts.

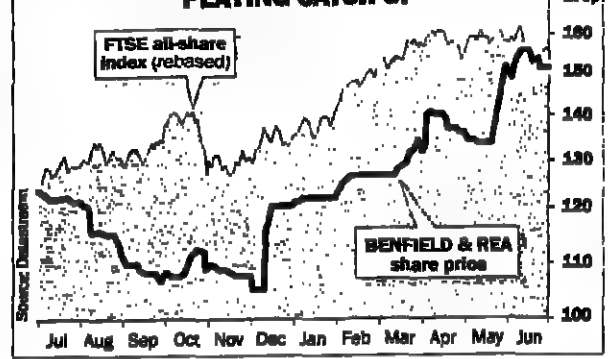
Over time, however, BRIT shifted its investment strategy. Instead of being effectively a fund of funds, it has bought directly into insurance operating companies. The process was continued

yesterday, perhaps with the most significant purchase yet, as a 29.9 per cent stake in Benfield Re, an underwriting firm, was acquired.

In share price terms BRIT was initially successful, keeping pace with the FTSE All-Share average for the first 18 months of its life. Last year was not so good, partly as BRIT suffered from

the general malaise sourced from cyclical Lloyd's premium income gloom. BRIT's decision to metamorphose, however, has changed perceptions and the shares have spurred in recent months. Investors can benefit from the restructuring both of Lloyd's and the corporate vehicles operating within it. BRIT is a buy.

PLAYING CATCH-UP



Marston's

FOLLOWING in the slipstream of Greene King was always going to be an invidious task for Nick Letcher, the new chief executive at Marston's. While his Suffolk rival is firing on all cylinders, his own charge is still in the throes of a wide-ranging and rather painful makeover.

Although Mr Letcher is busy pumping millions into beefing up the infrastructure and rectifying past management failings, it is clear from yesterday's full-year results that there is still a long way to go.

While the brewing side is on the up thanks to market share gains by its Pedigree blitter, the managed pubs in its Midlands heartland are clearly having a tough time, with some of its traditional concepts seeing a decline in like-for-like sales. Talk of "reimagining the formats" lacked conviction, although some investors will welcome that the tenanted estate

may be sold off. While beefing up the property team has solved the short-term problem of finding new sites for the key Pitcher & Piano and Via Vita brands, it seems clear the huge investment being thrown at this sector will lead to a shake-out.

Existing investors will be keen to see if Mr Letcher is making the right moves. But with the shares down 7p to 297p — trading at 11.5 times this year's forecast earnings 26p, Greene King, at a shade over 12 times, looks a better bet.

Dixon Motors

THE woe that is hitting motor dealers at the moment is pretty easy to explain. All the talk of recession, increasing interest rates and World Cup inertia that has stymied the housing market, is also pulling the rug from under the car market.

People who are paying more for their mortgages and are worried about their jobs

are hardly about to spend a few thousand quid on a new car — or a new second-hand one. Changes in the tax regime and the government's transport reform have made companies less willing to fork out for company cars.

This all adds up to a fall in demand for both new and second-hand cars. The latter is currently more of a problem for car dealers but the former will bite come August.

Dixon Motors, a well-regarded car dealer with Ford connections, is trying to sidestep the problems in the car market by expanding in motorbikes — a market which is growing as commuters realise that two wheels are often better for getting to work than four. But buying into an upwards cycle will not entirely mitigate the effects of a downward one, and shareholders should be as wary of Dixons as of any other volume car distributor.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFE			
	Jul	Jun	May
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028

CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)			
	Jul	Jun	May
Brent (15 day avg)	13.35	13.35	13.35
WTI (15 day avg)	12.50	12.50	12.50
WTI Intermediate (Avg)	14.25	14.25	14.25
WTI Intermediate (Sep)	14.70	14.70	14.70

PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			
	Jul	Jun	May
Spot CIF NW Europe (prev delivery)			
Premium Unit	110	110	110
Crude Oil	110	110	110
3.5 Fuel Oil	61	61	61
Naphtha	119	119	119

LIFE FUTURES (GNL)			
	Jul	Jun	May
110.00-112.00	110.00	110.00	110.00
112.00-114.00	112.00	112.00	112.00
114.00-116.00	114.00	114.00	114.00

BRENT (\$/barrel)			
	Jul	Jun	May
110.00-112.00	110.00	110.00	110.00
112.00-114.00	112.00	112.00	112.00
114.00-116.00	114.00	114.00	114.00

LIFE OPTIONS			
	Jul	Jun	May
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028

LIFE FUTURES (GNL)			
	Jul	Jun	May
110.00-112.00	110.00	110.00	110.00
112.00-114.00	112.00	112.00	112.00
114.00-116.00	114.00	114.00	114.00

BRENT (\$/barrel)			
	Jul	Jun	May
110.00-112.00	110.00	110.00	110.00
112.00-114.00	112.00	112.00	112.00
114.00-116.00	114.00	114.00	114.00

LIFE OPTIONS			
	Jul	Jun	May
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028

LIFE FUTURES (GNL)			
	Jul	Jun	May
110.00-112.00	110.00	110.00	110.00
112.00-114.00	112.00	112.00	112.00
114.00-116.00	114.00	114.00	114.00

BRENT (\$/barrel)			
	Jul	Jun	May
110.00-112.00	110.00	110.00	110.00
112.00-114.00	112.00	112.00	112.00
114.00-116.00	114.00	114.00	114.00

LIFE OPTIONS			
	Jul	Jun	May
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028
COOBA	1029.028	1029.028	1029.028

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt			
	Jul	Jun	May
Previous open interest 12812			
German Govt Bond (Bund)			
Previous open interest 7500			

Five Year Gilt			
	Jul	Jun	May
Previous open interest 378			
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)			
Previous open interest 1024			

Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)			
	Jul	Jun	May
Previous open interest 1024			
Three Mth Eurodollar			
Previous open interest 1024			

Three Mth Eurodollar			
	Jul	Jun	May
Previous open interest 1024			
Three Mth Eurodollar			
Previous open interest 1024			

Three Mth Eurodollar			
	Jul	Jun	May
Previous open interest 1024			
Three Mth Eurodollar			
Previous open interest 1024			

FTSE 100			
	Jul	Jun	May
Previous open interest 19953			

MONEY RATES (%)			
	Jul	Jun	May
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7% Finance H 8%			
Discount Market Loans: Overnight 8%			

||
||
||

Forget the mystique of finance. Forget the pushy salesman, greedy for commission. According to Jack Brennan, boss of America's Vanguard Group, the future of investment lies in buying low-cost index-tracking funds via the Internet. Cut out every middleman you can.

The Internet site will not make dodgy unauthorised oral claims. The index-tracking fund, which aims to duplicate the performance of a share index, does not need expensive star fund managers taking advice from expensive star share analysts. Nor does it pay expensive brokers to switch pointlessly from one share to another. Cut out costly, fallible human judgment. The average fund manager cannot beat the average.

Oddly, Mr Brennan delivered his message with verve this week at the annual Exel awards ceremony for those very same expensive investment analysts and global investment banks whose services, he feels, tomorrow's average investor will not require. The embarrassment was inevitable as

soon as Mr Brennan was invited by FT Financial Information Services, the award sponsor. His Vanguard Group specialises in index-tracking. It claims 60 per cent of the US tracker fund market. The invitation was, however, politically correct to an exquisite degree.

Index-tracking is as fashionable in no-nonsense, modern, professional-looking new Labour circles as Richard Branson can make it. After last year's bizarre lobbying by the Office of Fair Trading, it is the buzz for the threatened stakeholder pension. And unless someone in Downing Street can spot a lion trap, it might still be *de rigueur* for a Catmark state seal of approval for individual savings accounts invested in equity shares.

As one investment choice among many, index-tracking funds are certainly appealing. Even some leading pension funds have

bought the idea of investing most of their funds passively, relying on smart choices with the rest to win the performance game. Index funds are gaining by free choice but are not as popular as official zeal might suggest. In America, trackers account for 8 per cent of mutual funds. Last month, they made up just 4 per cent of sales of unit trusts, the British equivalent.

Official approval stems from an illusion, that equity investment can be reduced to a computerisable commodity. The illusion appeals equally to those who instinctively dream of low cost, non-commercial monopoly and to those who want to reduce investment to a simple homogenous product that can be differentiated by the skills of packaging, the arts of marketing and the magic of brands. Sadly, it is an illusion.

The idea of an index-linked pension, for instance, supposes

that you can safely set a single investment policy for 40 years, regardless of the business and economic transformations likely over that time. That invites disaster. Human judgment is required. Ten years ago, a pension plan wedded to the Nikkei index would have seemed a pretty attractive proposition in Japan. As things turned out, the salaryman

would have been better to hide his money under the floorboards. Better still to have invested in Japanese bonds or, as many did, in US Treasury bonds, though it did not always look that way.

Picking the right markets or type of asset to invest in is just as hard as picking stocks, though you need a different mentality. Even a simple index-tracking investment requires a choice of index. Last month's sales of tracker unit trusts ranged over eight different categories. Over the life of a pension fund, it would be daft to specify any UK share index unless you are sure that the UK will not join Euroland. Leading pan-European indices stick to the biggest companies even more than, say, the FTSE 100 index. Sticking with some index might prove a great strategy, but not one to make on trust or pick with a pin.

With luck and good economic

management, UK and Euroland shares will prove sound long-term. So some rise in index-tracking would not come amiss. But any official sanction that made this form of investment a big force, let alone a dominant one, would be insanely risky.

As Mr Brennan pointed out, American mutual funds have multiplied 17 fold since 1982, the start of the long bull market in financial assets triggered by a long-term switch to sound-money policies. The two are closely intertwined, since the weight of new money from middle-American families has itself generated the unprecedented high sustained returns on shares that persuade ever more to join the bandwagon. In the UK, corporate pensions for the many have played a similar role. But this process cannot go on forever. There is a price for everything. As the Japanese bubble should have

reminded everyone, any force that drives people to invest in shares, properties or tulip bulbs, regardless of their actual and relative price, carries dangers of earthquake strength.

The growth of US mutual funds also coincided with generous new tax reliefs, much as UK shares owe much to the growth of tax-led pensions and personal equity plans. In the US, individual retirement accounts and even the less catchily tagged 401(k) plans are relatively flexible. By contrast, Gordon Brown has already cut the equivalent of £6 billion a year off tax breaks for savers who invest for the future in shares.

The Government must therefore expect savings and investment to grow more slowly, not to accelerate. No wonder Mr Brown is tempted to override free choice by making stakeholder pensions compulsory, if not as yet *laissez-faire*. To destroy flexibility and force investors in tax-aided schemes to choose a collectively more risky form of investment would compound his careless vandalism.

Investment is not a commodity



GRAHAM BEARJEANT

Shanghai's skyline holds up a mirror of risks and rewards



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

You cannot blame Bill Clinton for throwing himself with such enthusiasm into the Great China Project. Everyone does, for a while. Nor is he the first to acknowledge that there are problems ahead. But more than his state visit recognised, China is hovering between development and disaster.

Shanghai, China's most commercial and cosmopolitan city, is not a good backdrop for gloomy thoughts, with its Internet cafés, mobile phones and chattering taxi-drivers. It has plenty of people such as Vickie Kan, the American-Chinese founder of Kanjin consultancy, based in New York and Shanghai, which advises foreign investors in China. She calls herself an optimist. "If you're in property, sure, you're going to be depressed, because there is a glut," she said. "And if you're a foreign company without majority control, maybe you have had some problems. But everyone else, they're laughing."

The quality that makes China so captivating, for investors and foreign presidents, is that two opposite views of its future are both plausible. The investment and changes of recent years could truly prove irreversible. Or it could face profound social turmoil as parts of its economy are obliterated. The theme song of the film *Titanic*, currently piped through fast-food outlets in the big cities, could prove all too appropriate.

There is nowhere better to see the risks and opportunities simultaneously than Pudong, the hugely ambitious business district on the other side of the Huang Pu river from the elegant waterfront promenade of Shanghai's Bund. Five years ago, Pudong looked like the final-year project of an



City administrators have plans to make the Shanghai Pudong development zone the 'Wall Street of Asia'.

architectural student too grandiose to graduate. Water mains and telephone cables had been laid, but otherwise the district was a wasteland. The television mast was no more than a stump. Billboards displayed pictures of the buildings that were supposed to rise: glass towers wrapped in shining girders, with people walking happily at their base.

To the astonishment of anyone who witnessed the start-up birth of London's Docklands, the picture has become real. A couple of dozen banks have installed themselves, including Citibank, Standard Chartered and the Industrial Bank of Japan. The skyscrapers, which fill a loop of the river rather like the Isle of Dogs, are dominated by the Pearl of the Orient television tower. That structure, like a dumb-bell balanced vertically on an Apollo launchpad, may have been christened with one of the world's great misnomers, but it certainly exists.

The only detail missing from the architect's dream is the little figures walking around. According to First Pacific Databases, an international property consulting com-

pany, the vacancy rate is about 60 per cent; others put it higher. Zheng Shangwu, deputy general manager of the Lujiazui Development Group, which is in charge of the zone for finance and trade within Pudong, said it is unrealistic to expect buildings to be occupied for a couple of years after completion. Officially, no building is counted as vacant until unoccupied for three years. Zhou Yupeng, the deputy mayor, calls the fulfilment of Pudong's potential "a glorious but arduous task."

If you are taking the optimist's view, you would agree that many property developers will lose their shirts. But there will soon be bargains to be snapped up, you would add. And property is such a special case, because it has attracted the bulk of the initial investment, that the failure of early speculation should not shake the confidence of those investing in manufacturing or services.

There are problems with this argument. Until the shake-out begins to happen, it is hard to judge the level of bad

loans on banks' books, and how their insolvency could remove capital from other businesses.

It is also easy to overstate the prospects of other new businesses. There are certainly success stories - dozens of foreign corporate investors, including Unilever and Pilkington, who arrived in China early and have made painstaking attempts to get on a sound footing.

There are horror stories, too, of companies locked in desperate dispute with joint venture partners, in a land full of laws and courts but no enforcement. "I would tell anyone not to go to court," Ms Kan said. "They will find ways of taking money off you somehow. Just settle."

But the frequent, more banal, problem is that for all the apparent modernism of Shanghai and other magnets for investment, big decisions are often made in Beijing. The skyscrapers are founded on the signatures of the country's leaders: the potential for commercial frustration is never-ending. Such impediments, not unique to China, are dwarfed

by its deeper economic problems, the real reason why Mr Clinton's enthusiasm risks looking starry-eyed. The Asian crisis twists the knife in a wound already widening.

The 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations, led by students, failed partly because ordinary workers failed to respond. China's leaders have taken comfort from the fact that employees of the towering state enterprises, many of which will soon close - and must close for China to prosper - have failed to organise.

But it seems improbable that this will last. In the great, decaying steel-working towns of the northeast, those who are still in work are often not being paid. Pensioners are not getting their pensions.

Against the threat of widespread political disruption contained in that picture, it is no surprise that this week's summit failed to make much progress on China's entry into the World Trade Organisation, even though that would help the country's long-term prospects. Mr Clinton and Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, tried to be encouraging yesterday at a

breakfast of local business leaders.

There is no reason to think them insincere in saying the US wants China in the WTO. They are right to insist that China make some steps to open its markets before joining: if anything, they have been too generous on the leisurely timetable they will allow it. But with manufacturing unemployment expected to rise steeply, even these steps carry a political risk too great for Chinese leaders.

In industrialised countries in the last two decades, the answer to political questions has seemed to spring more easily than usual from the economic numbers. Where growth has been high, voters have seemed content to demand of their leaders just more of the same.

That has been particularly true of the US. To an extent, it has been true of China: President Jiang Zemin owes much of his support from party colleagues to astounding growth. But with China, unlike many democracies, it is hard to judge what happens if ordinary people feel that pact is broken. How would local authorities react to demonstrations? Who might take over if Mr Jiang is pushed out? The lack of answers is a signal that if the boom ends, the alternative may not be just a slower rate of growth, it might be commercial disaster.

It is easy to be a scaremonger: to project a distillation of the world's great financial collapses on to a country resembling no other. But don't rush to snap up a second-hand Pudong office block, even at a knockdown price.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Selfridges: how not to run a business

From Mr Anthony Latter. Sir, Your Commentary about Selfridges in particular and the Sears Group in general very nearly hit the mark.

When you suggested that the latest Selfridges figures (pretty bad to say the least) were possibly more the blame of "too much reliance on Designer Label clothing" rather than the lame excuses of "re-building" and "disruptions caused by fortunes being spent on re-vamping the store" being trotted out by bad management, you could not have been closer to the truth.

The whole Sears fiasco has been a seminar on "how not to run a business" and how the City installs unqualified "wondermen" in jobs they could not possibly do.

Firstly we had Liam Strong, a marketing man from British Airways, who had never been in the retail business to any degree. In three short years he managed (with the guidance and backing of the equally "non retail" Sir Bob Reid) to decimate the Sears Group in the sorry state it is in now.

They appointed Vittorio Radice as managing director of Selfridges, who, since his appointment, has attempted to turn Selfridges in to the Harvey Nichols or Saks 5th Avenue of Oxford Street. He has decided that "Designer" is the only way to go. He has shoved any "normal" women's label in to the corners or has chopped them out altogether. He only has one problem:

Oxford Street has and never will be Knightsbridge or 5th Avenue. The people who shop in Oxford Street are not "Designer" people, they are tourists from the Middle East and Africa and good, honest working middle class English. Not only do they not understand "Designer" but they certainly cannot afford it and, for sure, do not want it.

We have sat and watched. We supplied Selfridges since the good old Charlie Clore days, (now he was a retailer), until we were told by the current management two years ago that "ordinary, good selling, quality and value garments" like ours were no longer the "Selfridges Image". Many other profitable suppliers were treated likewise, sacrificed on the altar of Vittorio's grandiose "Designer" concept. Someone should tell Mr. Radice that "Designer" is actually cutting back on her operations because the money is just not there any more.

You are right to advise people to be wary of buying any shares in a demerged Selfridges. I am in the business and understand it and would not invest one penny in their flotation. Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY LATTER,
Managing Director,
Simon Ellis,
66/68 Margaret Street,
London W1N 7FL.

Norcross nine years on

From Mr John Redwood.

Sir, Your City Diary piece concerning Norcross failed to point out that I resigned from Norcross in 1989, nine years ago. When I left to join the Government Norcross was a successful and highly profitable industrial group making 37 per cent on capital, and

achieving pre-tax profits of more than £65m.

The share price decline in the 1990s and the current much lower level of profitability cannot be attributed to a chairman who resigned nine years ago. Yours faithfully,
JOHN REDWOOD,
22 Stafford Place,
London SW1E 6NP.

Just resting

A MASS exodus from what used to be NatWest Securities, now BT Alex Brown, where one of the City's most respected equity derivatives teams has defected to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Piers Lowson, rated number one by UK institutions in the annual Reuters survey of City talent, and Jason Good, rated top by European clients, started at DMG yesterday, after six weeks of tiresome legal shenanigans, to be joined by two programme traders. But a fifth team member, Sean

Cutler, has yet to finalise his plans. Employees of firms engaged in mergers are routinely told - sorry, requested - to sign a document on employment conditions which in this case contained some small print about a six-month "off-limits" period.

Lowson and colleagues have succeeded in extricating themselves, but Cutler, for now, remains technically employed by BT Alex Brown. Hope he enjoys gardening.

●THE latest City bad taste joke doing the rounds is rather well-timed. It concerns Desire Petroleum, one of those oil companies out in the Falklands. The shares rocketed on news that they had found the usual traces of hydrocarbons, and then fell back again. The joke is that they hit the engine room of the "Belgrano".

Bugged out

I AM not allowed to name either, but a story reaches me about a recent visit by a British analyst to a leading French bank. Interviewing a main board director, the analyst



While the mobile phone company's competitors, One-2-One, Vodafone and Cellnet, all report their quarterly connection figures on the same day, thus allowing direct and often harsh comparisons, Orange always struggles in the next day. The future isn't so much Orange as a day late.

Yesterday a colleague rang the company to ask the reason for this curious policy. The conversation with a spokeswoman went thus: "Do you want some comment? Well, of course, we don't comment on competitor's figures, but ... And off she went."

Hanging on

I CAN only suppose that someone from Lazards ran over the writer to question the cat, because there is a blistering article about the merchant bank in *Fortune* magazine. Quite unlike the usual bland US corporate profile, it suggests, against the evidence, that a) Lazards' time is past and fees are in terminal decline, that b) they all fight like cats and dogs, and that c) Michel David-Weill, the 65-year-old patriarch, is past it and should name his successor forthwith.

You could also deduce, d) that Edouard Stern, his son-in-law and former heir apparent before he walked out after

a row, is "razor-sharp" (a "fact" mentioned twice) and "could come back" to run the business. Anyone detect here a hidden agenda? Most intriguingly, there is mention of a meeting of two dozen top partners in New York on June 16 to discuss merging the three businesses in New York, London and Paris and giving partners equity stakes, a first for family-owned Lazards. The talks were "inconclusive", says *Fortune*.

Lazards will not discuss the piece but is known to be very unhappy about it. And David-Weill intends to go on for at least another decade, he says.



David-Weill: *Fortune* not favouring the brave



"They've expanded into banana skins"

ACCOUNTANCY

Colossus takes first steps to make its mark in a new world

The brass plates of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand have vanished overnight and banners celebrating the birth of the unmanageably named PricewaterhouseCoopers have emerged. Yesterday marked the formal launch of the largest professional services firm the world has ever seen.

The accountancy profession has changed irrevocably. The step up in size and influence will alter the big firms' mindset for good.

By any measure the change is vast. The new firm has current annual fee income of \$15 billion (£9 billion). It has 9,000 partners worldwide and 867 offices. Even in the UK it will have 15,000 staff and 1,000 partners. The days when a senior partner knew the name and background of a junior partner in Aberdeen have vanished.

Now comes the mammoth task of making something of the colossus. Senior partners at Arthur Andersen have taken to making the disparaging comment that "when you put two crows together you don't get an eagle". But size alone has transformed the market. PwC's nearest competitors — Ernst & Young and KPMG, both with around \$9 billion fees each, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu with \$7.5 billion and the remains of Arthur Andersen, assuming its inevitable split from its consulting arm, with \$5.2 billion — are significantly behind.

Colin Sharman, KPMG worldwide chairman, said: "In the past the competitive balance was fairly even... that is going to change." And that is why Mr Sharman and his new global executive team are closed in a hotel near Bath this week planning their future strategy.

Nick Moore, PwC's worldwide chairman, promises leadership not just of the firm but of the profession. "We are in front of the pack rather than

Robert Bruce on the implications of yesterday's tie-up between Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand

followers," he said. Jim Schiro, the new worldwide chief executive, said: "We need to go back to our roots and be much more ready to speak out for the profession."

There is a long way to go. Before the new firm can reap the benefits it hopes to create, it has to sort itself out.

Ian Brindle, UK chairman and global risk management leader, said: "The problems are to come. The issue will be putting everything together and making sure that clients are served."

Clients have been wary. Brian Birkenhead, deputy chairman of the 100 Group of Finance Directors, said the majority of his members were still against the merger. "We will live with it," he said. "But levels of service will go down as they have in all such mergers as we have seen with the banks and the financial services companies."

Finance directors see the choice being reduced. There are now only five large firms to choose from. And at the highest corporate level this can be impossible, particularly on transactions where separate audit firms are needed for purchaser, vendor, due diligence and long form reports as well as other services. Mr Birkenhead said: "Finance directors will be watching and will be very hard-nosed over fees and service specifications."

Mr Brindle refutes this. He feels that the market will become more competitive. "The merger has changed the face of the profession and the

major firms forever," he said. "The firms will be even more competitive than they were before. There will be a real fight for market share."

Mr Sharman is not so sure. "The Big Five will be more distinguishable," he said. "PwC will go for everything. We will focus on things that we can be number one in."

What has transformed the market is the technology which enables companies to compete globally. The professional services firms are following suit. "We have moved well away from the traditional auditing roots of the firm," Mr Brindle said. And the firms will probably look very different in five years' time as the pace of change enables them to provide more services worldwide.

PwC, for example, will be the largest firm in what it calls enterprise resource planning — implementing technology that enables companies to operate the same systems worldwide. Projections in the merger documentation indicated that 55 per cent of fees in the new management consultancy division would derive from information technology implementation — the business which has made Andersen Consulting one of the most powerful consulting firms around. It is a far cry from traditional accountancy work.

But in the short term the key is going to be putting the two firms together and ensuring that resources are not being used to fight internal battles. So far the firms insist that most partners have not been distracted. "We haven't had the 'throwing the toys out of the cot syndrome'," as Mr Brindle puts it.

But the real test starts now and it will be a long time before the firm can be properly judged. Jim Wadia, head of Andersen Worldwide, said: "Nothing changes on July 1, 1998. But maybe on July 1, 2008, we may be able to look back and see a change."



Nick Land, Ernst & Young UK senior partner, left, and Colin Sharman, KPMG worldwide chairman, failed to bring off a merger of their two firms



Ian Brindle of PwC, above left, and Peter Smith, PwC UK senior partner, saw their merger succeed, despite misgivings by Brian Birkenhead, far right

Euro threat may beset unwary

Geoffrey Yeowart examines legal problems the currency may pose companies in EU member states

THE EURO will be introduced in 11 EU member states on New Year's Day 1999. Many UK businesses will be affected, even though the UK will be outside the "euro zone". Companies must examine in advance the legal issues that will arise and ensure that they are prepared.

It is essential to evaluate the impact on contracts. One question is whether continuity of contracts could be threatened. Where a contract is governed by the law of an EU member state, the position is reasonably clear. It was established in July 1997 by a Council Regulation, which is part of English law, that the introduction of the euro will not alter any term of a contract, or give a party the right unilaterally to alter or terminate a contract, unless agreed by the parties.

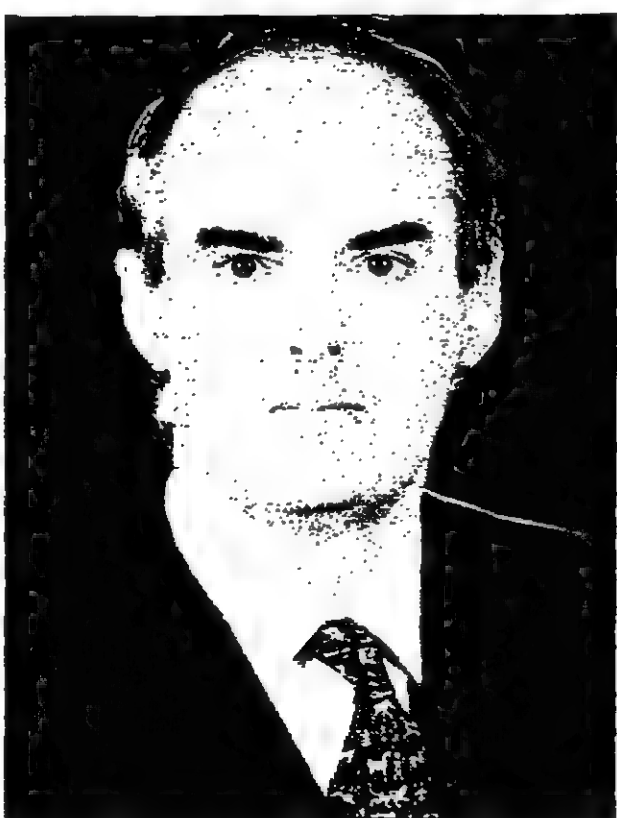
The legal position may differ in other jurisdictions. If the position is unclear, local advice should be sought or a continuity clause used. This requires careful drafting and should be based on a standard clause such as that suggested by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association.

Another question is whether

contracts may be affected if they use national interest rates or other pricing sources that will disappear because of monetary union. The English courts may imply a term that the nearest comparable successor rate should be adopted in the absence of a contrary intention by the parties. But this may not be easy to do.

In the international financial markets, trade associations are working with information providers to identify affected benchmark rates and to ensure designated replacement rates. Contracts should identify an appropriate successor rate. Changes in market conventions should also be considered. London interbank offered rate for euro will be quoted on the basis of interest over a 360-day year (sterling, the Belgian franc and the escudo now use a 365-day year).

The ecu (European currency unit) will be replaced by the euro at a conversion rate of one euro for one ecu on 1 January 1999. Where the private ecu is used in contracts, it is important to establish what type of ecu definition is used and whether the 1:1 conversion rate will apply.



Geoffrey Yeowart says preparation for the euro is essential

Equity and bond markets will be affected. A company will be able to issue new shares in any currency (including the euro from 1 January 1999). Companies may wish to denominated new issues of shares in euros, so that they can raise equity finance

in the new euro equity markets, match their capital base with euro earnings, meet investor demand or reflect their European status (many UK-listed companies also have secondary listings on other European stock exchanges). Issuers of debt securities

may also want to re-denominate them to the euro, round their nominal amount and switch to new conventions for euro securities. The International Primary Market Association is to provide working for issuers who want to do this.

The euro will have a significant impact on systems. When acquiring new software, a company should include a contract term to ensure the software is "euro compliant".

A company may also receive questionnaires about its own "euro compliance". Answers should avoid giving a representation or warranty which, if it proves untrue, would be actionable. It is better to state, factually, what a company is doing to prepare for the euro.

The euro is likely to be the most widely used foreign currency in the UK for businesses. It will not be legal tender while the UK is "out". No person can be forced to accept it to pay a non-euro debt. But payments may be freely made in the UK if mutually agreed by the parties to a contract. Even though the euro is not expected to pose problems under English law, every company must assess the implications for its business.

Geoffrey Yeowart is a partner of Lovell White Durrant, London, and author of *The Euro Guide to Legal Issues*, published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Directors all at sea over remit to report

THE IDEA of putting the top 260 finance directors in the UK on an ocean-going liner, sailing them to a point off the Jersey coast and then dropping anchor, is one that might at times have great appeal to investors and employees alike. It happened last weekend.

The occasion was the first Finance Directors' Forum. The idea is a simple one. Finance directors turn up free for two days of workshops, keynote speeches and think-tanks. People who might wish to sell their things pay to have access to them. It is a remarkably simple, and successful, system. It also gives the lie to the idea that senior people cannot cope with being away from their offices for more than a morning at a time. In a stimulating environment they had two and a half days to think and to network.

One of the topics they increasingly are thinking about is why on earth they devote so much time to producing an annual report and accounts for their companies which, by and large, no one reads. Brian Birkenhead, the deputy chairman of the pre-merger lobbying group, the 100 Group of Finance Directors, led the charge. In a workshop inevitably called "finance directors of the future" he suggested, as he ran through a list of changing responsibilities, that such activities as planning, learning, leading, delegating and influencing had nothing to do with the old nitty-gritty of financial reporting.

"The accounts of companies are so complicated that they are unreadable," he said. "They have never been a bedside read. But now they are incomprehensible." He was eager to add that this sorry state of affairs had nothing to do with Sir David Tweedie and his pioneering work at the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) in putting the rules of financial reporting straight. The problem was that the language of accounting was not something that more than a few intrepid souls could understand. "The cashflow changes that the ASB made are entirely logical," Mr Birkenhead said, "but no one understands them."

His argument was that finance directors, now that their responsibilities and role have widened to include such sexy things as strategy, are really not that interested in the detail of financial reporting. "We are a minority sport," he said. He quoted a survey which Brian Alvey, BAT's finance director, carried out last year. Mr Alvey found that

what the average shareholder wanted was a one-line remark about performance, a message from the chairman, lots of pictures and some narrative about the company's activities and an extremely detailed analysis of what the directors were being paid.

Mr Birkenhead's solution was simple: "Put it all on the internet and let people find what they want for themselves." This annoyed some finance directors. Neil Chisman, the finance director at the hotel company Stakis and his group financial controller, Graeme Davidson, put a huge amount of effort into making this year's report and accounts understandable. They included everything from glossaries of accounting terms to the equivalent of fireside chats on topics such as depreciation. Mr Chisman felt that chucking the whole lot on to the internet and letting investors go find it was not really measuring up to the responsibilities of trained accountants.

But the tide is turning in that direction. Mary Keegan, Price Waterhouse's European director of professional standards, told the workshop she was running that for the specialist investment community it was almost inevitable: "We are heading towards just downloading the information and letting the analysts work out what it means."

The answer is to provide the information, as the Tomorrow's Company project has suggested, in a pyramid structure. The summarised accounts could go to everyone. Beneath that would be reports aimed at specialists, such as environmental, employee or social reports, and then the mass of data would be available on the internet.

This is the suggestion that the 100 Group put to Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. She is said to be receptive to the idea.

All this ties in neatly with the work that the ASB is doing. It has made it clear that the annual report is no longer the primary source of investor information. At present the preliminary announcement is what moves the markets. And normally they are un-audited and brief to the point of embarrassment. The ASB aims to make the pre-merger main focus of a company's annual financial reporting.

This would satisfy both sides of the argument. A proper document following reporting rules and carrying the imprimatur of independent assurance would be published. The rest of the data would be available electronically to all. Shipshape and Bristol fashion.



ROBERT BRUCE

John Bull sets up partners' PR test

PARTNERS at Deloitte & Touche were locked in discussions this week over whether to run an advertisement consisting of "knocking copy" against the launch of the newly merged firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers. For some weeks Deloitte has been running advertisements emphasising, with the message "focusing only on clients", that they have not been distracted by such time-consuming nonsense as mergers. Picking up

on the strange "John Bull printing outfit style" of the jumbled letters used in PwC's logo they prepared copy in the same style with the slogan of "WholesFocusingOnlyOnClients" at the top. Only a dedicated search of the newspapers will reveal if they felt up to running it.

Naming of parts

CONFLICTING tales have emerged about why the new firm inflicted its Pricewater-

houseCoopers name on clients and typesetters alike. Originally the stringing of the three names together was thought to reflect Cooper's insistence that, as usually happens in such merger circumstances where the last name of the trio is dropped a few years later, this time it was not going to happen.

But now that the doors of the new firm and — more importantly — the reception desk telephone lines have

opened up for business, a hidden agenda has emerged. The name, spoken as a greeting on the telephone, tends to put the emphasis on the last of the three names. As the partners keep emphasising, "communication is vital at this stage of the merger".

Global groan

THE WORDS OF Chris Patten, last Governor of Hong Kong, at the Finance Directors' Forum last week

and will have had some resonance for all those global accountancy firms insisting that mergers were necessary to raise money for huge expansion into markets such as China. He made several excruciating puns about the outrage of "pandering to China" and then commented: "So many businesses say they are in China for the long term — by which I assume they mean they aren't making any money."

ROBERT BRUCE



Irwin: wants private operator

South Africa invites bidders for 'capped' lottery

By JON ASHWORTH

SOUTH AFRICA is about to throw open the bidding for a national lottery, which will include a cap both on lottery profits and on the salaries paid to lottery executives.

Gtech, the lead supplier to the UK National Lottery, is among potential bidders for the long-delayed South African game, which is expected to generate

revenues of up to R7 billion (£700 million) a year. Some 5 per cent of the lottery will be held by the National Empowerment Fund, channelling funds to black enterprises, and the Post Office will hold 15 per cent. The remaining 80 per cent will be held by the licensee.

A draft of the bidding document — or Request for Proposals — is expected soon, along with a list of potential bidders. Gtech is certain

to make a play for the licence, although it faces steep competition from AWI, its main US lottery rival. Littlewoods, the UK pools group, is said to be interested, and Camelot, the UK lottery operator, may seek some involvement. A strong bid is expected from Scientific Games, the Georgia-based lottery company best known for its scratch-card expertise.

The cap on pay and profits is a

direct response to experience in the UK, where Camelot has provided a ready target. Similar restrictions are certain to be imposed when the UK licence comes up for renewal in 2001. Richard Branson, who campaigned for a not-for-profit lottery in the UK, has been encouraging the South Africans not to make the same mistakes.

Alec Irwin, South Africa's trade and industry minister, said it

would be in the best interests of all South Africans to establish a national lottery operated by an experienced private lottery company. Obstacles facing the successful bidder include an under-developed telecoms network and South Africa's high crime rate, which raises concerns about the security of retailers, the operator and individual prize winners.

Gtech can point to its experience

in launching a lottery in Brazil, which suffered from a similar lack of infrastructure. The successful South African bidder will have to invest up to R1 billion (£100 million) over five to seven years to build a sophisticated national lottery network. Final bids are due by September. The licence is expected to be awarded in December, with the lottery going into operation by the middle of 1999.

Prestbury sells £40m portfolio

Prestbury, the AIM-listed property group run by Nick Leslau and Nigel Wray of Burford fame, yesterday sold four investment properties for £40 million to Resolution Property at a small profit over book costs. The properties produce a net annual income of more than £3.73 million.

Investor buy

Sweden's Incentive AB, which changed its name to Gambro AB yesterday, has sold five million shares in appliance maker Electrolux to investor, the main investment vehicle for the Wallenberg family, for 164.90 crowns a share or £60 million. The deal takes the investor stake up to 21 per cent of the votes and 3.6 per cent of the shares and leaves Gambro, also part of the Wallenberg fold of companies, focused purely on medical technology.

UBS sale

UBS is to sell its Lugano-based private bank, BSI-Banca della Svizzera Italiana, and information technology company Boss Lab to the Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali. UBS said the combined value of both acquisitions was \$Fr1.92 billion or £759 million and it expects to make a profit of \$Fr1 billion after taxes and minorities.

Dixons purchase

Dixons Motors has bought Cosmopolitan Motors, one of London's largest motorcycle retailers, for £15 million through its Carnell Motorcycles subsidiary. In the year to July, 1997, Cosmopolitan made pre-tax profits of £177,098 and at year end had net assets of £456,274.

Lookers deal

Lookers, the car dealer, has acquired the Rylands operations in Belfast for £3.3 million. Profit before tax of the acquired business was £267,000 in the year to end December. The shares remained unchanged at 105p.

Healthy profits

Associated Nursing, the healthcare group, raised pre-tax profits from £2.4 million to £3.3 million in the year to March. Earnings rose from 8.1p to 10.6p and the total dividend rises from 3.7p to 4.0p. The shares are unchanged at 170p.

Aegis sale

Sutcliffe Speakman, the specialty chemical group, has acquired Aegis Trading and its operating subsidiary, Joseph Storey, for £3.25 million. To be paid in cash. In the year ended April 30, Aegis Trading made pre-tax profits of £40,000 on £2.41 million sales.

Asian markets

Silvermines, the electrical equipment group, said that it had won £4 million orders in Asian markets during the first half — a 300 per cent increase in sales.

French sell state-owned GAN to mutual insurance group

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S socialist-led Government has sold the state-owned insurer, the GAN, to the French mutualist Groupama for Fr17.25 billion (£1.7 billion).

The move, made public yesterday by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, will create the country's second biggest insurance group, with an annual turnover of more than Fr37 billion, but also provoke controversy.

Private insurance companies will see M Strauss-Kahn's decision as a red rag to a bull at a time when they are contesting what they say is the

preferential treatment enjoyed by France's powerful mutualist movement. The Finance Minister will also face accusations of nationalism ahead of choosing Groupama ahead of four foreign firms.

M Strauss-Kahn said: "Nationality was not at issue. The candidates were judged equitably and transparently."

Groupama's offer to buy an 87.1 per cent stake in the GAN valued the insurer at Fr19.8bn. Swiss Life made a higher bid but asked for a Fr7 billion guarantee linked, among other things, to the sale of the GAN's British subsidiary,

GAN Life, last year. The mutualist demanded a Fr2.9 billion guarantee.

Bernard Desles, Groupama's chairman, pledged a Fr2 billion investment programme spanning five years, which he said would safeguard the jobs of the GAN's 6,700 employees.

M Strauss-Kahn said Groupama's financial package had swung the decision in its favour. But he is known to have come under pressure from unions concerned that Swiss Life would cut jobs.

M Delas says Groupama has Fr20 billion cash at its

disposal, no debts and a project that will inject renewed "dynamism" into the GAN, which had a 1997 turnover of Fr50.8 billion.

The state-owned group ran up accumulated losses of Fr40 billion between 1992 and 1996 as it followed the path laid down by the disaster-ridden French bank, Crédit Lyonnais. But it made a Fr284 million profit last year on the back of state subsidies worth about Fr20 billion.

Yesterday's announcement will upset a French financial community already angry at the Government's decision to

sell the bank, CIC, to another mutualist, Crédit Mutuel, for Fr13 billion.

Private insurers say mutualists benefit from tax and accountancy rules that give them an unfair advantage. Their case is backed by the European Commission, which said last month it would take France to court over its failure to incorporate EU insurance directives into French law.

Groupama started as an outsider in the race for the GAN, with analysts saying the Government could not afford to sell a second financial institution to a mutualist.



Franco Mancassola, chairman of Debonair, said he was encouraged by its ability to control costs while expanding

Debonair sues Italians over contract

By MARTIN BARROW

DEBONAIR, the low-fare airline based at Luton airport, is suing the regional government of Calabria in Italy for £30 million for allegedly reneging on a contract to operate from Lamezia and Reggio airports.

A five-year contract signed

in January was to have paved the way for the launch of scheduled flights to Turin, Rome, Florence and Bologna the following month. Debonair estimated the contract was worth £100 million. But the contract has yet to be implemented.

Yesterday Debonair reported a rise in annual losses to £16.6 million from £15.7 million in the year to March 31. Turnover more than doubled to £25 million from £14 million.

Franco Mancassola, chairman, said he was encouraged

by the airline's ability to control costs while expanding. Debonair, which was listed on the fledgling pan-European Easdaq stock market in July 1997, saw year-on-year passenger loadings rise from 50 to 59 per cent in March and from 59 to 66 per cent in April.

Shoe stake handout for Town Centre investors

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

TOWN Centre Securities, the property group based in Leeds, is proposing to hand out its 15.1 per cent stake in Stylo, the shoe company, to its shareholders.

Edward Ziff, managing director of Town Centre, said: "We believe that the disappointing recent performance of Stylo shares does not reflect Stylo's long-term prospects, and we want to give our shareholders the choice of retaining those prospects."

Under the plan, each Town Centre shareholder would receive 6.9 Stylo shares for every 100 Town Centre shares. Town Centre has had a stake in Stylo since 1974. Since the purchase of Hush Puppies in 1996, Stylo's shares have fallen from 156p to yesterday's closing price of 55p.

"We know that the shoe retail industry has not been without its problems, but we believe the shares are fantastically undervalued," Mr Ziff said. Mr Ziff's brother Michael is chief executive of Stylo. Arnold Ziff, their father, is chairman of both companies.

The 15 per cent stake in Stylo, at 55p per share, has a market value of about £5 million. Town Centre, which owns 139 retail properties and seven car parks, is capitalised at £124 million. The group's shares were unchanged at 95p.

Business looks to crack the secret codes of computer crime



THE ICE BOX

HACKERS were once dismissed by business as an insignificant collection of misfits interested only in trying to break into the Pentagon's military database. However, as technology has proliferated, computer criminals have begun to target many smaller businesses as well as multinational corporations and governments.

The problem has created a boom in IT security consultancy, and IBM, the US computer giant, has hired a team of "ethical hackers" to break into their clients' networks to pinpoint weaknesses.

According to consultants, the first question usually asked by victims of high-tech crime is "who would want to hack into our company?" Most often, hackers are disgruntled former employees who use their insider knowledge either to vandalise a computer network or gain commercially sensitive information to pass on to a competitor.

The results can be disastrous. As extranets — direct computer links between companies and their suppliers — become more popular, hackers can break in and find out what prices are being charged to competitors. Any kind of information that can be stored on a computer, from retailers' market research to software developers' technology that has yet to be patented, is potentially at risk.

But hacking is not all about computers. A popular catchphrase among the anti-wearing population is "social engineering", which refers to gaining passwords or other insider information by good, old-fashioned deceit. In many cases, hackers have simply phoned an employee pretending to work for their company's IT department, asked them for a

general password, and been given it.

There are other ways of gaining access to systems. Hackers with enough computing power can run programs that generate thousands of combinations of numbers and letters a minute. In an attempt to guess passwords, hackers can also secretly download "sniffer" software on to a company's network that reads every piece of information sent through the computer system, from employees' e-mails to customers' credit card numbers.

Consultants say the best way of stopping computer crime is by having a strict policy on simple issues such as passwords: no generic passwords should be used, and individual passwords should be kept secret. In addition, "firewalls" should be installed in networks to filter what information can be passed through a company's computer system.

TECHNOLOGY that allows ambulances to change traffic lights ahead of them — thus increasing response times and improving road safety — is about to be tested in London. If successful, a multimillion pound contract to provide the technology throughout London, and possibly in other UK cities, will be offered. The leading bidder will be 3M, the US high-tech company.

CHRIS AYRES



Time difference: ambulances could respond quicker

Meristem drops on profits warning

By A CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Meristem fell from 58½p to 39p after the specialty chemicals group warned the stock market that second-half profits would be "substantially below" earlier expectations and

would also be down from last year's figures.

Meristem blamed a slowdown in demand at its process minerals division but was keen to emphasise that its formulated chemicals continue to trade acceptably. Meristem is to release half-

year figures on September 16. One broker reduced a full-year forecast from between £3.7 million and £4 million to between £2.4 million and £2.6 million before tax.

Analysts said problems at the process minerals operations reflected

expectations of reduced demand from detergent companies. The detergent market is unstable in the wake of the introduction of new products, such as detergent tablets, and the increasing switch from branded to "own brand" products.

FUTURE

INTER-ALLIANCE PLC

CAPT O.M. WATTS

PETROLEUM PLC

Congratulations to all these companies, which recently raised over £21 million of finance, boosted trading in their shares and enhanced their public profile by joining over 300 companies already on the Alternative Investment Market. To find out more about AIM, call the AIM hotline on 0171 797 4404 quoting TT/0798A.

STOCK EXCHANGE




Hotline: 0171 797 4404 www.londonstockexchange.co.uk London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP Fax: 0171 797 4063

PHONE 020 74976
Bond Street, City Centre, 003909
going to press.


	Y01	Y02	C01	C02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07	Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Y15	Y16	Y17	Y18	Y19	Y20	Y21	Y22	Y23	Y24	Y25	Y26	Y27	Y28	Y29	Y30	Y31	Y32	Y33	Y34	Y35	Y36	Y37	Y38	Y39	Y40	Y41	Y42	Y43	Y44	Y45	Y46	Y47	Y48	Y49	Y50	Y51	Y52	Y53	Y54	Y55	Y56	Y57	Y58	Y59	Y60	Y61	Y62	Y63	Y64	Y65	Y66	Y67	Y68	Y69	Y70	Y71	Y72	Y73	Y74	Y75	Y76	Y77	Y78	Y79	Y80	Y81	Y82	Y83	Y84	Y85	Y86	Y87	Y88	Y89	Y90	Y91	Y92	Y93	Y94	Y95	Y96	Y97	Y98	Y99	Y00	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07	Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Y15	Y16	Y17	Y18	Y19	Y20	Y21	Y22	Y23	Y24	Y25	Y26	Y27	Y28	Y29	Y30	Y31	Y32	Y33	Y34	Y35	Y36	Y37	Y38	Y39	Y40	Y41	Y42	Y43	Y44	Y45	Y46	Y47	Y48	Y49	Y50	Y51	Y52	Y53	Y54	Y55	Y56	Y57	Y58	Y59	Y60	Y61	Y62	Y63	Y64	Y65	Y66	Y67	Y68	Y69	Y70	Y71	Y72	Y73	Y74	Y75	Y76	Y77	Y78	Y79	Y80	Y81	Y82	Y83	Y84	Y85	Y86	Y87	Y88	Y89	Y90	Y91	Y92	Y93	Y94	Y95	Y96	Y97	Y98	Y99	Y00	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07	Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Y15	Y16	Y17	Y18	Y19	Y20	Y21	Y22	Y23	Y24	Y25	Y26	Y27	Y28	Y29	Y30	Y31	Y32	Y33	Y34	Y35	Y36	Y37	Y38	Y39	Y40	Y41	Y42	Y43	Y44	Y45	Y46	Y47	Y48	Y49	Y50	Y51	Y52	Y53	Y54	Y55	Y56	Y57	Y58	Y59	Y60	Y61	Y62	Y63	Y64	Y65	Y66	Y67	Y68	Y69	Y70	Y71	Y72	Y73	Y74	Y75	Y76	Y77	Y78	Y79	Y80	Y81	Y82	Y83	Y84	Y85	Y86	Y87	Y88	Y89	Y90	Y91	Y92	Y93	Y94	Y95	Y96	Y97	Y98	Y99	Y00	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07	Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Y15	Y16	Y17	Y18	Y19	Y20	Y21	Y22	Y23	Y24	Y25	Y26	Y27	Y28	Y29	Y30	Y31	Y32	Y33	Y34	Y35	Y36	Y37	Y38	Y39	Y40	Y41	Y42	Y43	Y44	Y45	Y46	Y47	Y48	Y49	Y50	Y51	Y52	Y53	Y54	Y55	Y56	Y57	Y58	Y59	Y60	Y61	Y62	Y63	Y64	Y65	Y66	Y67	Y68	Y69	Y70	Y71	Y72	Y73	Y74	Y75	Y76	Y77	Y78	Y79	Y80	Y81	Y82	Y83	Y84	Y85	Y86	Y87	Y88	Y89	Y90	Y91	Y92	Y93	Y94	Y95	Y96	Y97	Y98	Y99	Y00	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07	Y08	Y09	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Y15	Y16	Y17	Y18	Y19	Y20	Y21	Y22	Y23	Y24	Y25	Y26	Y27	Y28	Y29	Y30	Y31	Y32	Y33	Y34	Y35	Y36	Y37	Y38	Y39	Y40	Y41	Y42	Y43	Y44	Y45	Y46	Y47	Y48	Y49	Y50	Y51	Y52	Y53	Y54	Y55	Y56	Y57	Y58	Y59	Y60	Y61	Y62	Y63	Y64	Y65	Y66	Y67	Y68	Y69	Y70	Y71	Y72	Y73	Y74	Y75	Y76	Y77	Y78	Y79	Y80	Y81	Y82	Y83	Y84	Y85	Y86	Y87	Y88	Y89	Y90	Y91	Y92	Y93	Y94	Y95	Y96	Y97	Y98	Y99	Y00	Y01	Y02	Y03	Y04	Y05	Y06	Y07	Y08	
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

WITHDRAWN



If an ad misleads, we're here to stamp it out.

Advertising Standards Authority
2 The Quadrant Place London WC1E 7EY 0171 580 5555 <http://www.asa.org.uk>



Equities squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
54	56	55	Alfred Dunhill	55.5	-0.5	-0.9	13.6
412	20	19	Diageo	19.5	-0.5	-2.6	10.6
12	11	10	Heineken	10.5	-0.5	-4.8	11.1
77	42	41	Heineken	41.5	-0.5	-1.2	11.6
12	11	10	Heineken	10.5	-0.5	-4.8	11.1
12	11	10	Heineken	10.5	-0.5	-4.8	11.1
12	11	10	Heineken	10.5	-0.5	-4.8	11.1
12	11	10	Heineken	10.5	-0.5	-4.8	11.1
12	11	10	Heineken	10.5	-0.5	-4.8	11.1
12	11	10	Heineken	10.5	-0.5	-4.8	11.1

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BANKS							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
134	135	134	Barclays	134.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8
115	116	115	Beck's	115.5	-0.5	-0.4	11.8

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BUILDING MATERIALS							
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5
48	49	48	Anglo American	48.5	-0.5	-1.0	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ELECTRICITY							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ELECTRONIC & ELECT							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
CHEMICALS							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
CONSTRUCTION							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
DISTRIBUTORS							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ENGINEERING							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
INSURANCE							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
LEISURE & HOTELS							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5

1998	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES							
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5
100	117	116	Barclays	116.5	-0.5	-0.4	12.5



NEW FILMS

An abrasive
view of Kurt
Cobain

PAGE 39

THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE

The man
who partners
Guillem

PAGE 41



The roar of the greenbacks

Hyping or, to put it more politely, marketing movies can double their budget. And in the end, does it really do the trick? Nigel Cliff reports

Have Hollywood's publicists developed a sense of humour? "Size does matter" is the tongue-in-cheek tagline for this summer's most overhyped blockbuster film, *Godzilla*. It refers, of course, to the film's agent of doom, a mutant lizard 200ft high and longer, as the building-sized posters in Cannes informed everyone, than the Carlton Hotel. But the most bloated aspect of this production is its publicity budget, recently estimated at \$120 million — the same as the film cost to make.

"Marketing is becoming increasingly important for every film," says Peta Browne, a director of the PR company JAC, currently handling *The General*, which won John Boorman the Best Director award at this year's Cannes Festival. "But the major studios are playing a different game from the rest of us. They can do things we just can't, like flying journalists club class to the set for interviews."

In America, where *Godzilla* was released on May 19, Sony arranged merchandising tie-ins and blitzed the poster sites, papers and airwaves of the nation with lizard teasers (only the toes, though: the rest of the computer-generated beast was kept strictly under wraps). Ex-

'There's a lot
you can do to
create a buzz
without
spending
money'

pect a flood of similar hype before the film's UK release on July 17.

gas and *Sliding Doors*, and is now working on two Cannes award-winners, Ken Loach's *My Name Is Joe* and Todd Haynes's *Velvet Goldmine*.

"The serious media are more celebrity-driven than ever before, which makes it harder than it used to be to get publicity for our films."

Nor is it just blockbusters that benefit from the huge spending power of the majors. Peter Dignam, managing direc-

tor of Twentieth-Century Fox in the UK, admits that his publicity budget for *The Full Monty*, often talked of as an independent movie, was "much greater" than smaller distributors might have been able to afford. The money funded a carefully orchestrated teaser campaign lasting several months before release, and a "freshening up" campaign afterwards.

"Certain films need to be left to breathe: it takes a few months for them to filter down into the marketplace," says Dignam. But those without the studios' bottomless pockets are not daunted. Andrea Klein, head of film sales at the British Film Institute, whose budget stretches to "thousands rather than tens of thousands" of pounds for each release, insists that the wealthier opposition makes her job "difficult, but not impossible. There's a lot you can do to create the right buzz without spending any money," she says. "You just have to be inventive."

In any case, Klein argues, a bad film will not sell, however much money is thrown at it: "The audience isn't that stupid," she says. Browne is not so sure: she cites *Independence Day* as an instance of a film that was relentlessly marketed and earned enormous sums at the box office — more

than \$300 million in American cinemas alone — but which, she says delicately, was "generally not perceived to be such a good film". Dignam, though he agrees with Klein that "you can't make a bad film into a success", admits marketing can do a lot — "the balance is 60-40, or 70-30, in favour of the film," he suggests.

"There will always be an audience that follows the big campaigns," concedes Klein, "but there is another which doesn't respond to four-page colour ads." For this audience, reviews are all-important, and she acknowledges that her

hoisting marketing strategy "only works if the critics love the film". Jonathan Rutter concurs: "Most of our films can be killed stone dead by bad reviews in the wrong publications," he says. His novel solution is "just to be honest" — to take on films he believes are worthwhile, and to "pluck the elements that shine from them". "The type of films we work on don't lend themselves to gimmicky campaigns," he adds.

Peta Browne is not averse to the odd gimmick in a good cause, but she, too, is wary of hype: she thinks "people feel

conned" if their expectations are raised too far. "I get put off films which are over-marketed," she says. "People don't like to be spoon-fed, they prefer to make up their own minds."

For Hollywood blockbusters, which now routinely cost more than \$100 million, leaving people to make up their own minds is not a viable marketing strategy. Films on this scale are caught in a vicious circle. To recover inflated production costs a mass audience must be found, and to find that audience takes a giant publicity budget. The average spend

on marketing major films in America alone is now estimated by *The Wall Street Journal* at \$23-30 million, which only a few years ago was how much they cost to make.

Dignam maintains that these figures are not excessive, and that there is no danger of publicity budgets spiralling out of control. "Of course we all get it wrong sometimes, but nobody is going to spend more than they think they can make back."

In the case of *Godzilla*, the crystal ball may have lied. To turn a profit, according to Hollywood's customary formula,

Godzilla will need to gross \$240 million in America alone. It made a strong start, taking \$55 million in its first four days, but such were the expectations raised by the studio — some analysts were predicting closer to \$100 million — that this figure earned unimpressed headlines in the trade press and raised doubts that the film would recoup its costs. Before the film opened, it had already been judged a success because of the high visibility of its publicity campaign. But on this performance, Sony's lizard looks small fry compared with Spielberg's dinosaurs.



Giving the people what they think they want: suitably raucous and saluting fans gather for a premiere of Madonna's much-hyped *Evita* in 1996

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

PASSPORT TO A SENSATIONAL SUMMER

FROM DINOSAURS TO DUNGEONS, CASTLES TO CONCERTS, TRAINS TO TEDDIES...



Mount Grace Priory, Saddlebridge, North Yorkshire



Salisbury House Museum, Salisbury, Wiltshire

From July to October, *The Times*, in association with worldwide financial experts Zurich Insurance, is giving you a Passport to a Sensational Summer. You and your family can enjoy special concessions, representing savings of up to £200. As well as your Passport card, you will also receive a region-by-region listings guide. In addition, read *The Times* Weekend section on Saturdays for more discounts at other special events.



HOW TO JOIN IN OUR SUMMER OF FUN
Simply collect six of the seven tokens printed in *The Times* until Saturday July 4. Send them, with the coupon which was published in Monday's *Times* (it will appear again on Saturday in the Weekend section), a C5-size sac and a first-class stamp, to: *The Times* Zurich Passport Guide, Spero Communications, Meridian Gate, Marsh Wall, London, E14 9YT. Please allow 20 days for delivery.

A TASTE OF WHAT YOU WILL SEE AND SAVE

MOUNT GRACE PRIORY, Saddlebridge, is a hidden gem with herb gardens and reconstructed monks' quarters — the best-preserved Carthusian monastery in the country. Passport holders get a two-for-one adult ticket.

There is free entry for Passport holders at the **SOHO HOUSE MUSEUM**, Birmingham. At the former home of industrialist and entrepreneur, Matthew Boulton (1728-1809), displays tell the story of Boulton's life, and shows some of produce made at his factory: buttons, steam engines, swords, coins, silver and ormolu.

One of the most imaginative museums, the **IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM**, London SE1, tells the story of 20th-century conflict with weapons, paintings, battle memorabilia, and the sounds and smells of the Blitz. There is £1 off adult admission for Passport holders.

Winner of an England for Excellence award, **SALISBURY AND SOUTH WILTSHIRE MUSEUM** is the home of the Stonehenge gallery. Pitt Rivers' great archaeological collection, the Salisbury Giant and Turner watercolours. There is £1 off adult admission for Passport holders.

ZURICH

CHANGING TIMES

Into the sewers

NOW an established fixture, the summer season in Holland Park has cornered the market when it comes to satisfying the craving of townies for something like country-house opera. John Allison writes. Standards have improved too. Most significantly, Holland Park has taken to programming rarities: this year they are Mascagni's *Iris* and Cilea's *L'Arlesiana*.

Justifiably neglected, one might say of *Iris*, revived again in this its centenary year. Quite why the production did not settle everyone's curiosity when it was new last summer is worrying: the story, just the kind that gives opera plots a bad name, charts

OPERA

Iris
Holland Park

the downfall of a Japanese village girl, her humiliation in a brothel and death in the sewers of a big city.

Nor does the climactic apotheosis music alter Mascagni's reputation as a "one opera" composer. *Iris* may actually be his eighth opera, but it contains nothing as memorable as the music for *Cavalleria rusticana*, in spite of its many colourful moments.

At least the score enjoys the strongest possible advocacy in this production, thanks to John Gibbon's conducting, full of idiomatic verve. Tom Hawkes's staging in Peter Rice's set is as enjoyable as the piece allows, but it creeps in places — literally, for during the prelude a balustrade on the pretty bridge came adrift and crashed on the stage.

Given the fragile dramaturgy and uninteresting music, it is hard to care much about *Iris*'s predicament, but Giselle Allen gives a strong, touching performance.

Gerard O'Connor has power as her blind father, but Geraint Dodd pushes his tenor too hard in the role of her playboy suitor, and Richard Whitehouse sings effectively without overcoming the cardboard characterisation of the brothel-keeper villain.

Full Marx for farce

BEFORE you have time to take your seat in the Royal Exchange's circus tent — pitched, somewhat incongruously, on top of the Barbican Centre — you are buttonholed by paparazzi, and gushed over by Jean Chail's enormous hostess, Mrs Rittenhouse. Groucho Marx is in town, and for reasons known only to the writers George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind, he is guest of honour for the unveiling of a famous statue at Mrs R's society party.

According to the plot he is Captain Spalding, a big game hunter fresh from shooting pygmy elephants in Africa. For everyone else he is the familiar nutty gag-machine from the 1920s with the tipsy eyeballs, fat cigar and a gait that suggests too much time bounding on the back of a malevolent mule. Chico Marx (Joseph Alessi), the fake-Italian brother, swiftly joins the fray with his silly spoonerisms and sillier hat, followed on cue

THEATRE

Animal Crackers
Barbican

by the curly-haired Harpo, who proceeds to drop a ton of stolen cutlery all over the floor.

Emil Volk's production, now three months on the road, has far more in common with a strip cartoon than a piece of theatre. What's left of the 1930 film is brushed aside or used as a trampoline for more buffoonery. The cast change from one door of the tent as Keystone Cops and come through another as Guinness-drinking Riverdancers. Coat tails are tied together, Sue Holland's preposterously vulgar Mrs Van Damme is goosed, and the warbling Mrs R is flattened in an American football offensive.

There is enough stage traffic to drive anyone into a road rage. Meanwhile the three-

strong band bash out schmalzy tunes or cleverly play musical tag with, most notably, Toby Sedgwick's horn-parping Harpo.

By any standards this is a wonderfully inventive production, but it clearly thrives on our nostalgic faith in these antique clowns. Normally, a farce that works on the how-long-can-we-get-away-with-it factor rarely gets away with much at all. It is a tribute to the Manchester Royal Exchange that they get away with as much as they do. The real reason for this is Ben Keaton's almost spooky empathy with Groucho.

He not only has Groucho's delivery down to a cigar-tapping T, but he improvises as freely with the audience as he does with shoes that ring like telephones. Marx fans will love it. The sensible will cringe.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Bit parts raise the stakes

"IT WAS very long," said one woman with a Scandinavian accent as she made her way from the Abbey Theatre, after Patrick Mason's new production of *Saint Joan*. It is of course hard to deny that truth. But there is, nevertheless, in the dense vegetation of Shaw's language jungle, enough reason to sit a good deal longer than this production's three hours in the theatre.

Patrick Mason's completely fascinating version brilliantly updates the play's medieval setting to the First World War, adding sandbags and other icons of trench warfare and costumes that call to mind Renoir's *La Grand Illusion*, rather than Dreyer's *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. The time shift cleverly underlines Shaw's pessimism about history, replacing one occasion when Tommies moved bloodily through the fields of France to another 500 years later.

Even with Joe Vanek's design, which employs an arsenal of effects that includes everything from the colours of Rheims Cathedral's rose window projected on to the stage floor in great slabs of light, to incense that hovers across the auditorium like mustard gas,

Saint Joan
Abbey, Dublin

Shaw's drama remains essentially a word-powered work. The dialogue certainly flows torrentially in Mason's production, and as saints, sinners, soldiers and royalty fire out glinting webs of finely woven argument there is little succour given for those lacking in concentration or stamina, but substantial rewards for everybody else.

In the past the title role has been dubbed "unplayable" and Jane Brennan certainly has some difficulties making the character comfortable in the company of Shaw's regiments of small but meticulously developed supporting roles. Indeed, her buoyant interpretation frequently seems more like an over-eager schoolboy than a savant country girl, and while she thoroughly develops the martial, hectoring aspect of the character, Brennan remains short on beautiful magnetism.

Things generally go better when Joan is elsewhere. Ian Price's cynical British overlord, Warwick, jousts brilliant-

ly with Des Cave's Cauchon — a cleric who, one suspects, will always be far too pragmatic to make it through the Pearly Gates.

Both share with Tom Hickley's Inquisitor the skill of making closely argued debates on the origins of the Protestant tradition, the birth of the nation state, and arcane issues of heresy both funny and also unexpectedly engaging.

The men of action get strong support, particularly from Mark O'Regan's strange, bearded, Toad-like Dauphin, a lonely monarch with a firm grasp on his own mediocrity. O'Regan cleverly plays him for laughs without losing the character's shocking bleakness.

If the production has its flaws, and the weak casting of the lead role probably has to count as one of these, Mason has been particularly agile in finding actors to make an antique way of writing and speaking not just palatable to the modern ear, but clearly important. In some cases, and *Saint Joan* is a classic instance, a play is long because it has a lot to say.

LUKE CLANCY

مركز الفن الحديث

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown discovers a romantic comedy with a plot that could have come straight from the 1930s

Off the road with a battered old Ford

Honestly, the things an actress must do these days to be a mainstream movie star. You must stand in tropical waters, act the helpless maiden and quake with fear because something slippery has entered your underwear. Harrison Ford then wades to the rescue, puts his hands down the front of your pants — the camera, of course, peers intently here — and finally retrieves a snake. I hope Anne Heche, famously lesbian to boot, thought the pay cheque was worth it.

This horrible moment, perhaps the low point of the year so far, is not particularly typical, but it does indicate the backward nature of *Six Days Seven Nights*. The plot hails from a computer database of Hollywood romantic comedies. Two antagonistic people are thrown together. She is a smart, neurotic magazine editor from New York (in the 1930s she would have been Claudette Colbert); he is a happy-go-lucky freight-plane pilot working the Hawaiian Islands (Clark Gable, naturally). While holidaying with a fiancée clearly meant to be ditched (Ralph Bellamy's old role, badly played here by David Schwimmer), she hitchhikes a ride in the pilot's battered plane. They crash-land in a storm on a deserted island, with only their egos and hormones for company. Guess what happens.

The astonishing thing about this antiquated trifle is that some of it, despite the dusty air and the snakes in the pants, remains mildly entertaining. Under Ivan Reitman's direction, Ford and Heche make a tolerably pleasant star duo. Ford himself seems rejuvenated. In films such as *Patric Games* and *The Fugitive*, the man's face was frozen in a surly grimace; now he smiles, he gets drunk, he shows off his chest and makes jocular remarks about his plane's equipment: "We may be old, but we're sturdy!" How many vitamin pills has he taken?

As for Heche, despite the script's crass moments of romantic intimacy, the film still employs this fast-rising player more fruitfully than either *Volcano* or *Wag the Dog*. She is allowed to be what she is good at, a quicksilver comedienne. Her love for Ford may be as fake as the film's computer-generated storm-clouds, but the illusion is well-sustained as the script elongates the pair's predicament with flare-gun blunderings and pirate attacks. *Six Days Seven Nights* could be much better; it could also be worse. Either way, the moment the film ends — if not before — you can forget all about it.

After the broad brushstrokes of *Six Days Seven Nights*, *Love and Death in Long Island* has the feel of Japanese calligraphy. The film, indeed, appears so small and delicate that it almost floats away on the breeze. Luckily, this adaptation of Gilbert Adair's novel features John Hurt, who supplies some ballast in his starring role as the fastidious London literary back number, Giles De'Ath. Giles's reclusive life, previously untainted by the 20th century, is shaken up by a chance encounter on the cinema screen with Ronnie Bostock, supporting hunk in the American teen movie *Hotpants College II*. It is love at first sight. To

Six Days Seven Nights
Odeon West End
12, 108 mins
Tolerable, forgettable romantic comedy

Love and Death on Long Island
Metro, 15, 93 mins
Sophisticated jape with John Hurt

Grease
Empire, PG, 110 mins
John Travolta struts again

Kurt & Courtney
Screen on the Green
15, 95 mins
Contentious rock doc by Nick Broomfield

research his obsession, he buys a television and a video recorder and fills a scrapbook with cuttings from magazines such as *Hollywood's Most Snuggable Fellas!!*. He is then compelled to travel to Long Island, Bostock's home, to meet his idol face to face, played, appropriately, by Jason Priestley, a hunk himself from the television series *Beverly Hills 90210*.

Adair's novel, fastidiously adapted by the director, Richard Kwietniowski, plays amusingly with the clash of cultures, high and low, British and American, and the twin powers of love and cinema. The tone of dry, rather precious fooling cuts out many chances for showing real feelings — of longing and pain — but Hurt at least hints at them as he enters the adolescence he never had before and tastes the experience of love. The London scenes in the first half quiver with knowing details of the metropolitan cultural life. Early scenes in America hold out a promise of more wry fun. Here is Giles De'Ath pondering whether he should place his shoes for cleaning outside his motel chalet door; here is a reference to the poet Rimbaud, misheard as Rambo.

For Kwietniowski, the film marks his feature debut after stylish short squibs such as *Flames of Passion*, a gay reworking of *Brief Encounter*, also made with Oliver Curtis as director of photography. Visually, *Love and Death* is far less daring, though his technical fluency is impressive. Unfortunately, the more the film stays put in America, the more the material wears thin. De'Ath uses the time to fan Bostock's ego, with talk of his acting's Shakespearean resonance; Bostock is bemused, unaware of the passion that motivates his admirer. Hurt's performance,



Been there, seen that: Harrison Ford and Anne Heche wash up on a deserted island to find themselves stranded in the rent-a-plot romantic comedy *Six Days Seven Nights*

a cunning mixture of innocence and guile, affords many pleasures; but the film still gives us too much time to twiddle our thumbs, waiting for feelings to be consummated or frustrated, rather than blanketed in neat little jokes. Regrettably, by the end of the day, you are left with that Chinese meal feeling.

There is nothing evanescent about *Grease*, that breezy fantasy of high-school life in

the 1950s, first created on stage by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey in Chicago in 1971. A new production of the musical is currently playing in London. So is Paramount's 1978 film version, brought back to life for better or worse for its twentieth anniversary with digital sound and spruced-up colour. Was John Travolta ever so trim? He must have been, for there he is, cleft chin and hair quiff in

position, strutting about in a flaming pink shirt with matching handkerchiefs and socks, pursing his lips from time to time as Danny Zuko, the coolest dude at Rydell High.

He is, in short, hilarious. And Olivia Newton-John is not far behind, blonde fringe dancing blandly over her forehead, as Sandy, the girl whose summer romance with Danny causes him a severe image problem once the new term starts. But why am I bothering with the plot? The film rarely does: it gets rolled away for minutes on end while the school gangs, the T-Birds and Pink Ladies smoulder and flourish, and Hollywood veterans such as Eve Arden and Joan Blondell pop in and out with smart remarks.

As is often the case, time does strange things to a popular favourite. In 1978, the retro styling of Randal Kleiser's film was seen to be part of the fun. Now the aura of knowingsness has vanished: placed next to the density and speed of today's product, *Grease* looks empty-headed enough to have been made, not just set, in the 1950s. It does nothing with nostalgia except serve it up in a garish lump. This is no

crime; though it does make *Grease* a film best left to pop-culture watchers, fashion historians, John Travolta groupies and the old at heart. They should have a ball.

Twenty years ago, Nick Broomfield's films bore titles such as *Behind the Rent Strike* or *Juvenile Liaison*. They were militant reports from among Britain's dispossessioned. People change with the times, of course; though it is hard not to wish for a touch of the old commitment as you watch *Kurt & Courtney*, Broomfield's latest safari

through the jungle of American sleaze. Much-worshipped rock star Kurt Cobain and his feisty widow Courtney Love are his subjects: a worthwhile pair, on the face of things, though the director's tactic of rumbling upon interviewees, mike in hand, camera rolling, limits the insights on offer.

Broomfield chases, then drops, conspiracy theories that suggest Cobain's supposed suicide was a cloak for murder, and lines up people happy to implicate Love herself (including her own father). The theoretical justification for all

this is to demonstrate the way the media's information is controlled; the film itself pointedly has patches of talk and music missing, thanks to Love's iron grip (and concern for libel laws). But what is the practical result? Some tabloid titillation: knockabout comedy with thugs, paparazzi and the pharmaceutically challenged: a few moving memories of Cobain's childhood; and the usual scenes of Broomfield getting nowhere on the phone or blundering in where he is not wanted. This time, it is not enough.

'Embarrassing'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

SIX DAYS AND SEVEN NIGHTS
Alison Jullard, 20: *Friends* star David Schwimmer turns up briefly to prove that he can only give one kind of performance — a bad one.

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Anne Heche is glorious. She is the film's only saving grace.

Emma Rolph, 19: It felt like six days and seven nights just watching it.

Carl Clark, 19: Harrison Ford decides to give us a big comedy performance and

quite frankly I was embarrassed for him.

GREASE
Alison: You'll lose control — it's electrifying!
Leslie: It's definitely the one you want to see. You'll be strutting out of the cinema.

Emma: I'd forgotten how good Travolta can be.

Carl: Really enjoyable but save yourself some money and rent it instead — it doesn't need a big screen.

KURT & COURTNEY
Alison: It's a detailed portrait of a tragic life, but it made for



rather depressing viewing. Leslie: Courtney Love comes across like the Anti-Christ. Can anyone really be that horrible? Emma: This documentary about Kurt Cobain's life is riveting. It has to be seen to be believed. Carl: It brought home to me the hell that drugs can place you in.

A little pizza his heart

NEW ON VIDEO

chronicler of Generation X, and the words come from Talk Radio playwright Eric Bogosian. The characters drink, prattle, and test their friendship on the night a college chum turned rock star drives up in a stretch

limousine to rekindle old memories. Excellent casting of fresh faces (Giovanni Ribisi, Steve Zahn), good dialogue and Linklater's sympathetic handling all make for an absorbing film. Available to rent.



Closest love: Anthony Barrile as a gay actor takes a bit of a shine to his unsuspecting room-mate, Nick Scotti, in Tony Vitaler's *Kiss Me Guido*

GUILTRIP
Metrodome, 15, 1996
TERSE, original and disturbing Irish drama about a bad marriage in a country with no divorce laws, from writer-director Gerard Stembridge (who is new to cinema). Andrew Connolly plays an army corporal, quiet but dangerous, who expects his every word to be obeyed. At night he returns drunk to his bored wife (Jasmine Russell) and a furious row. Flashbacks then take us through their day and show the passions rising. The visual style is blunt, but the story is so involving that you never pine for pretty pictures.

WAITING FOR GUFFMAN
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1996
CHRISTOPHER GUEST, one of the screenwriters and stars of Rob Reiner's *This Is Spinal Tap*, continues the "mockumentary" tradition in this slim but endearing comedy documenting the efforts of a fey stage director called Corky St Clair to mount a musical show celebrating the 150th anniversary of the town of Blaine, Missouri. His cast are amateurs (the town dentist, travel agent and company), though their tantrums would not disgrace Broadway, where St Clair wants this show to transfer. Probably too specialised for mainstream cinema audiences (in Britain, the film has shot straight to video), but showbusiness buffs should have a ball. The cast includes Guest himself, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara and Parker Posey. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

"Deliciously witty... John Hurt gives a performance of moving simplicity. Jason Priestley is perfect!"

"Hilarious... imaginative, stylish and entertaining... John Hurt is superb!"

"Excellent... a sophisticated treat!"

JOHN HURT
JASON PRIESTLEY

love and death
ON LONG ISLAND

STARTS TOMORROW

VIRGIN CINEMA
CHelsea CINEMA
RENOIR
GATE CINEMA

Waterside BRISTOL • Arts CAMBRIDGE • Chapter CARDIFF • Canoe EDINBURGH • Picturehouse EXETER
FilmTheatre GLASGOW • Cornerhouse MANCHESTER • Tyneside NEWCASTLE • Broadway NOTTINGHAM
Phoenix OXFORD • Showroom SHEFFIELD • HarbourLights SOUTHAMPTON

PHONE 020 74976
04976

LISTINGS

Whiskey Galore staged

ARTS

Scenes from the battlefield

PAINTING

On the Swiss bayou

For ten days every June, New Orleans takes over the small Swiss resort of Ascona, at the northern tip of Lake Maggiore. Louisiana accents predominate in the open-air restaurants and musicians mingle with the holiday crowds by day and transform the five outdoor bandstands into somewhere close to Bourbon Street by night. As on Bourbon Street itself, jazz is no longer the only style of New Orleans music on offer, and the New Orleans Jazz Festival got under way with the blues piano and singing of Eddie Bo.

Bo built his playing and singing around drummer Anthony Thomas Serrano's masterful street beat, catching the flavour of the Tremé marching band, which had been out and about in the town. It was

JAZZ

joined by the Dutch Happy Feet band, which was at its best jamming with its American counterparts.

This open-ended jam-session atmosphere is unique on the world's festival circuit. New York trombonist Dan Barrett and the Sydney-based trumpeter Tom Baker could be found jamming until the small hours in an international line-up, not long after finishing their formal sets with the Legends of the Swing Era all-star band. Baker's and Barrett's playing rose to new heights, not least when Baker chose to take on all comers on tenor sax and trombone as well as trumpet.

Amid the Swing Era Legends, Baker and Barrett were teamed with veteran Chicagoans: the saxophonist Franz Jackson and bassist Truck Parham. In such competitive company both elder statesmen, well into their eighties, gave their younger counterparts a run for their money. Jackson's blustery tenor sax, as full-toned as Coleman Hawkins, was strongly featured, especially on *Struttin' With Some Barbecue*.

So what have such elderly Chicagoans got to do with New Orleans jazz? "We learnt it first-hand from the founding fathers, when they got to Chicago in the 1920s," explained Jackson.

If the Chicagoans learnt their craft at the hands of the men who invented jazz, then the younger musicians from the Crescent City itself have it in their blood. As the sun set over the lake at the end of the first weekend of the event, the Camellia Band closed its set with the clear Creole clarinet of Charlie Gabriel and the robust trombone of Lucien Barbarin ringing out across the water, two examples of fourth-generation musicians steeped in a tradition that its evidence is still in very good health indeed.

CLIVE DAVIS

ALYN SHIPTON

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor on what two British artists learnt from their wartime service

The naked truth: Rodrigo Moynihan's *The Medical Inspection* leaves us in no doubt about his views on the dehumanising effects of war

Forged in the crucible of war

War has a nasty way of embroiling even the most unwilling members of the community. As the current series of exhibitions at the Imperial War Museum devoted to the official war artists of the Second World War keeps demonstrating, some artists not normally associated with war and politics were roped in anyway, and frequently did some of their best work in this unlikely context.

The two at present on display make the point very neatly. Both Rodrigo Moynihan and Paula Vozzella are remembered as fastidious abstractionists. Moynihan flitted backwards and forwards for years between abstraction and representation, achieving considerable success before the war as a leader of the short-lived Objective Abstraction movement, though by 1939 figurative work was filtering back into his work. In the early

1950s, those with short memories were outraged by a sudden return to abstraction. Paula Vozzella was born Margot Watson-Williams and worked with some success as a post-Bauhaus illustrator under her own name. But after a road-to-Damascus experience with abstraction in France, she abandoned representation completely and took on a new name to go with the new approach.

Vozzella was pushed by the coming of war to return to her native Bristol, where she witnessed and recorded the bomb

devastation as well as painting a bizarre series of barrage balloon images. The fascination now in these paintings and drawings is to see how the pictorial preoccupations of her earlier and subsequent abstract work, particularly a fascination with ribbon-like shapes floating free, are reached during the war by external reality: the tangled griders of *Bomb Damage at a Bristol Store* follow just a little wayward trajectory.

Moynihan was a slightly different case. As a young artist (28 when war broke out)

clearly on the brink of serious success, and with a young family to support, he could not help regarding the war as an intrusion, but also possibly a source of painting commissions. He was in fact commissioned early on by the War Artists' Advisory Committee to paint two RAF subjects, and was then almost immediately called up to the Royal Artillery. He managed to shift fairly rapidly to a camouflage unit, and was invalided out in 1943. During the first phases of his training, he made a series of angry sketches of a

medical examination which, after his discharge, he worked up into one of his masterpieces, *The Medical Inspection*, which leaves us in no doubt of what he thinks of war's dehumanising process.

Though criticising himself for his self-centredness, Moynihan made no bones later of the fact that he did not in any sense have "a good war". Nevertheless, some of his war-artist images are among his most memorable, ranging from his crisp, unsentimental pictures of *ATS at Work* to sensitive portraits of important public figures, including the Queen while she was Princess Elizabeth. Ultimately his encounter with the war did him no harm as an artist. Certainly these paintings have an intensity which Moynihan would seldom recapture.

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 (071-416 5000), daily 10am-6pm, until August 31, museum admission £4.10, concessions £3.10.

Rhythm and hues

whelm the cello of Khemese's elder brother, Reuben — and there was not much room left for nuance.

But nobody could overlook the vitality of the township rhythms which formed the basis of the programme. Danceable tunes such as *Sophiatown* and *Papa Pata* had all the vibrancy and simplicity of the churchy, up-tempo anthems of Abdullah Ibrahim — who, incidentally, plays the same

venue later this month. Many of the harmonies evoked South Africa's rich tradition of vocal ensembles, *imbongi* — better known as *The Lion Sleeps Tonight* — worked its usual magic on the audience. Elsewhere, the keyboard player Julian Wiggins also added a touch of atmospheric penny-whistle soloing.

Much more than a straightforward support act, the singer-guitarist Vusi Mahlasela took up some of the slack as

he and the quartet took turns to hold centre-stage. A low-key performer, Mahlasela opened with gentle acoustic guitar duets. Later he returned to add a splash of soft rock to some of his arrangements, and showed that he was capable of adjusting his vocals to match.

Close your eyes, and there were occasions when you could almost have been convinced that you were listening to Peter Gabriel or Van Morrison. It was a reminder, if one were needed, that cultural influences flow in both directions: rock is today's real world music.

CLIVE DAVIS

ALYN SHIPTON

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

LONDON

SELYN GLENNE/KIRKMAN PERRYMAN: One of the world's leading percussionists plays a variety of instruments from timbales to toms in a bill of new music. Glenne is joined by artist Norman Perryman whose pictorial responses to Glenne's music will be simultaneously projected onto a large screen.

Old Spitalfields Market: £1 (071-638 8891). Tonight 7.30pm.

NOR CUTLER: The master of small poetic miracles and dry humour graces the Midweek Festival at the South Bank.

Queen Elizabeth Hall: SE1 (071-980 1242). Tonight 7.30pm.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: John Williams, arguably the greatest living film composer, returns to conduct the LSO through excerpts of *Star Wars: Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *The Lost World*, and *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*.

Barbican Hall: EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER FESTIVITIES: Only, Evans on the festival with Handel's *Musica for the Royal Fireworks* (11pm) in St John's Chapel and Academie's *Beethoven's Four Seasons* (8.30pm) in the Cathedral.

EDINBURGH: Compton MacKenzie's classic, *Whiskey Galore*, cleverly adapted from a version first produced, appropriately, on the island of Mull.

Liverpool: The city's cathedral provides the setting for the first of the 1998 Summer Pops concerts. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, with the original Ian Tracey, perform Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture*.



A man and his hat. Ivor Cutler poses on the South Bank

Wagner's *Die Walküre* at Handel's organ concerto, and the suite from *Star Wars* by John Williams.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME: Civic Music's new festival for Carman updates Beethoven to become a new theatre involving a fifty shop assistant, a security guard and an Italian professional footballer.

Scarborough: John Godley directs his new comedy, *Perfect Pitch*, about two sets of warring characters who turn the perfect holiday into a perfect mess.

Sheffield Joseph Theatre: (0723 370541). Tonight 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

THE CHANGELING: James Stewart's first recipient of the James Stewart Award directs this black-and-white Jacobean tragedy.

How I Learned to Drive: Paula Vogel's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama of a girl's relationship with an older man (Helen Mirren) is produced by her uncle Rick (Kevin Whately) while learning how to drive.

THE ICEMAN COMETH: Kevin Spacey plays *Heavenly Bodies* in Howard Davies's magnificent Al Pacino production.

THE LAST VEGAS: Award-winning play by John Jensen. The play became a sensation of a cocktail party in the West Coast, joined by *Chipsy Guy*, *Suey Gray* and *Cammy Guy*.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Gaelle Brown's choice of the best movies

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE: Fiona Shaw is ridiculous and magnificent as the visionary schoolmistress who later her adding imitates full of great culture and dangerous ideas.

THE POSSESSED: Epic dramatisation of Dostoevsky's novel, performed in three parts by the May Drama Theatre of St Petersburg.

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND: The new Lloyd Webber megamusical, inspired by the much-loved film but relocated to Louisiana. Stars Marcus Lovett and Lolita Major. See today's review in *Notes*.

THE BIG LEWISOWSKI: The Coen brothers' dishevelled spoof of Raymond Chandler's thriller, very funny in spirit. With Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Julianne Moore.

CITY OF ANGELS: (18). The angel Nicolas Cage falls for heart surgeon Meg Ryan, intelligent romantic drama, inspired by *Wing* and *Wings of Desire*. Director, Brad Silberling.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE: (18). Teenage love and loss of love. Directed by John Dahl.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE: (18). Teenage love and loss of love. Directed by John Dahl.

POMETTES: (PG). A extraordinary voyage into a grieving child's mind, from French

director Jacques Dufrenoy, with an extraordinary performance from four-year-old Victoria Thesoul.

THE APOLLO 13: Engrossing portrait of a failed Perseus, director, memorably portrayed by Robert Downey Jr, who also willis and wins. With Michael Richardson, Fanny Ardant.

THE BIG LEWISOWSKI: The Coen brothers' dishevelled spoof of Raymond Chandler's thriller, very funny in spirit. With Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Julianne Moore.

CITY OF ANGELS: (18). The angel Nicolas Cage falls for heart surgeon Meg Ryan, intelligent romantic drama, inspired by *Wing* and *Wings of Desire*. Director, Brad Silberling.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE: (18). Teenage love and loss of love. Directed by John Dahl.

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE: (18). Teenage love and loss of love. Directed by John Dahl.

POMETTES: (PG). A extraordinary voyage into a grieving child's mind, from French

OPERA & BALLET

COLOSSEUM 071 532 0000

THE ROYAL BALLET

COLOSSEUM 071 532 0000

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

THEATRES

ADRIAN

DANCE

A hunk at the ballet

ARTS

TOMORROW 5
New pop albums reviewed

Comeback king steps into the light

DANCE: Allen

Robertson meets

Jonathan Cope,

Sylvie Guillem's

leading man

This is his golden moment. Over the next month, as the Royal Ballet takes up residence at the London Coliseum, Jonathan Cope will be dancing the choicest roles in the repertoire. Not only that, he will be partnering Sylvie Guillem, the most glamorous ballerina of the decade.

Many punters would have been willing to bet that he would never get to this point. And, in truth, Cope's career has had more than its fair share of full stops. In addition to the work-related injuries which occasionally plague every dancer, Cope can recall in the time he cracked a rib because his bike was slammed into by a car jumping a red light. Then there was the frightening mystery illness which sidelined him for much of this year. Doctors thought, but have never been able to verify, that he had been infected with toxoplasmosis.

"I had every test under the sun, but I'll never really know what it was. All I knew was that I felt sick and wanted to sleep 22 hours a day." After a flurry of indecisive opinions, one stumped medic suggested removing his tonsils. That seemed to do the trick and he quickly began to regain his strength, but there had been anxious months when it looked as if his performing career had seen its final curtain.

Even more dramatically, at the age of 27, Cope and his wife, the former ballerina Maria Almeida, actually opted to retire. That was back in 1990, and the couple's premature decision sent shockwaves through the dance world. "I was doing too much," Cope insists, "and I was slated by the critics all the time because they were sick of seeing me."

"If I'd had a better mental attitude, maybe I could have handled it. But the thing about ballet is that you're in it from the age of six and you've never made a conscious decision to be a dancer; it all just unfolds. Then, suddenly you reach an age when you wonder what else is out there. I had to find out."

It took him the better part of two years to come to the conclusion that he had made a mistake. Finally, having had more than enough of sitting on the sidelines, Cope swallowed his pride and asked Anthony Dowell, the Royal's artistic director, if he could have his old job back.

Nobody was happier about his change of heart than Guillem. Now, some six years past his self-imposed exile, Cope has virtually become Guillem's sole London partner.

Small wonder. He can showcase a woman as few other men in the business can. At more than 6 ft tall,



The quiet star: despite his high-profile partnering of the dazzling Sylvie Guillem, Jonathan Cope has not got "one of those egos that demand to be centre stage all of the time"

Cope is capable of handling even the tallest, strongest and most demanding of dancers. Add to this his dark good looks — critics are fond of dubbing him "a Greek god" — and you have a ballerina's dream. And on top of everything, the calmly assured Cope is devoid of the egomania which drives most star performers.

"Yes," he agrees. "I haven't got one of those egos that demand to be centre stage all of the time. Maybe that's not a good thing in this business, but that's my character." Does being so closely associated with such a renowned celebrity ever make him feel as if he is Mr Guillem?

"I'm very aware that she's a big international star, if that's what you mean. And she is totally unique. At the moment I don't mind if the

audience is there because they want to see her and might never even have heard my name."

Guillem is legendary not only for her exceptional artistry but also for her fiery and opinionated temperament. "Some people are frightened of her strong character," Cope says, "but it gets her where she's going."

"She enjoys giving management and the media a difficult time, but she's very loyal to her partners. She feels that if somebody's on her side then she'll stand by them."

"Immediately they are against her, well... With the hiss of a cornered snake, he forms his forefingers into a cross like some hapless virgin trying to ward off Dracula. "In that case," he laughs, "I don't envy you, whoever you are."

"Sylvie gave me quite a hard time initially. I was terrified, really

scared, because I was just this young English boy and she was already one of the top dancers in the world. She used to tell me absolutely everything I had to do (to make her look her best on stage) so I had a million and one things to think about. But just before we did our first performance together, she came up to me in the wings, grabbed my wrist, looked me straight in the eyes and said one word: 'calm'. We've been all right ever since."

This summer's triple crown of roles — *Swan Lake*, *Manon*, *Raymonda* — is enough to placate any dancer. But, like Jim Carrey dying to play Hamlet or Robin Williams longing to have a go at King Lear, Cope, the handsome ballet prince par excellence, would love to have a crack at comedy. His first choice would be Frederick

Ashton's bucolic, sunshined-filled *La Fille mal gardée*. "I thought it might have been fun to see two big lanky people have a go at that, but it's not something that appealed to Sylvie." Still, he has few complaints with the casting department.

At the moment, Cope says, he is happier than he has ever been. "OK, I'm about to be 36 and I know my dancing days are numbered. Dance is cruel that way: just at the point when you really begin to understand and enjoy what you're doing, your body starts to let you down. But I don't think about that. I know I can keep in top form for three or four more years. Besides, if you start to think, 'Oh, God, I'm getting old', then mentally, you're already halfway there. So what I'm doing is just

enjoying it. Like they say, 'one day at a time'."

"I was watching the World Cup the other night and I was shouting at the telly. Bring on the 18-year-olds! Then, all of a sudden, I thought, 'What am I saying?'"

"No, I've got nothing to complain about. A dancer is supposed to be very selfish. All you're meant to think about is, 'Do I feel good? Am I well? Am I eating correctly? Sleeping well?' And then suddenly you've got two kids [a four-year-old daughter and a one-year-old son] and you've got to forget all that. When the baby is crying in the middle of the night because he's hungry, he doesn't care if I'm a star. He just wants to eat."

● The Royal Ballet appears in five productions at the London Coliseum, July 7-August 1. Tel: 0171-632 6300

Lorca comes home

Granada, once described by the great guitarist Andres Segovia as a "place of dreams, where the Lord put the seed of music in my soul," is the perfect setting for a festival. Artists have long been aware that few places stimulate the senses like this Andalusian city, and that few have more inspiring venues for performance. Indeed, the festival's roots go back earlier than its official birth in 1952 to a contest organised by Falla and Lorca in the 1920s and even to concerts held last century in the Alhambra.

Though it has a long history, the Granada Festival has not stood still. It is no longer the Salzburg of the South, a glamorous summer festival offering big stars. Funding structures have changed, and with money now coming mostly from the region rather than central government the budget has shrunk. But if there is a

FESTIVAL

Spanish translation for "necessity is the mother of invention" the festival director Alfredo Aracil will surely know it: a composer himself, he has put together inspired and inspiring programmes.

This year's festival, where the many Spanish artists are being joined by foreign guests including Finland's Lahti Symphony Orchestra and The Sixteen from Britain, celebrates a number of important anniversaries. Most significant is the centenary of the birth of Lorca, whose poetry has inspired countless works of music and dance. Also being commemorated are the centenaries of the death of the writer Angel Ganivet, another local son, and the end of the Spanish colonies overseas, while the death in 1598 of Philip II is being marked too.

Both the literary themes came together in the opening concert, given late at night by the Lahti musicians in the open courtyard of the Palace of Charles V. The programme was dark, even uncompromising, for a festival launch: Shostakovich's Fourteenth Symphony, an unrelentingly gloomy piece based on 11 poems dealing with death, was the main work. Settings of Lorca form the basis of the first two movements.

The orchestra's music director, Osmo Vänskä, gave a concentrated and bleak account of the score, and was a considerable accompanist to the two Finnish soloists. Camilla Nylund revealed a strong, Nordic-sounding soprano yet plenty of temperament in the Spanish numbers, and the bass Sami Laitinen was at his most eloquent in *O Deliv*.

Jacobo Durán-Loriga's *Ode to Borral*, a homage to Ganivet, was a festival commission. Even here there was a Finnish connection, as Ganivet served as a diplomat in Finland before committing suicide in Riga, and the sound-world was sometimes distinctly Northern. The Madrid-based Durán-Loriga has enjoyed success with his operatic and electronic music; this score showed real orchestral skill in its suggestion of a slowly setting sun, moving from high strings at the beginning to a close dominated by the lowest instruments, though it could have been more lightly constructed. The Lahti players also flew their national flag in a rousing performance of *Finlandia* that refreshed the warm night air.

JOHN ALLISON

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Perfecting Puccini; a hit from the Proms; youthful fire lights up Beethoven

OPERA

John Higgins

PUCCINI

La Bohème
Haymon/McLaughlin/
O'Neill/O'Neil/Miles/
Philharmonia/Parry
Chandos 3008(2) (2 CDs)
*** £20.99

ONE OF the most successful issues so far in the Chandos series of popular Italian operas in English, America provides Cynthia Haymon for Mimì and very good she is too, much better than at Covent Garden in this role a few years ago. She uses her silvery tone to great effect in the first act, telling her life story very simply and slowly under the sure guidance of conductor David Parry. By the third act, when she has seen more of Paris life, Haymon's Mimì uses a firmer sound, before physical frailty overcomes her. A very well thought-out performance.

For the rest, Chandos shows off the best of British. Dennis O'Neill is an impetuous Rodolfo, with excellently articulated singing. His sobs at the end are calculated to reach exactly the same reaction from the listener. Alan O'Neil's Marcello is the sensible one among the Bohemians, despite his rows with Musetta (Marie McLaughlin in warm voice and never overdoing things in the clear song, but lacking the clear diction of the rest of the cast).

Alastair Miles copes well with the whiskey translation before going off to hook

his coat: *Venerable garment*. And there are two characteristically neat cameos from Andrew Shore. Altogether an excellent introduction to the old tear-jerker.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ LINDBERG
Feria: Corrente II: Arena
Finnish Radio Symphony
Orchestra/Saraste
Ondine ODE 911-2 ***
£14.49

ONE OF the great events at last year's Proms was the premiere of Magnus Lindberg's ebullient *Feria* by the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Jukka-Pekka Saraste. Now comes a splendidly recorded disc of the work from the same forces, capturing its explosive quality and raw, visceral power. The title alludes to Spanish festivities and there is certainly a celebratory mood about it, though there are also climaxes of scorching, gut-wrenching dissonances.

Similar pile-ups of massive sonorities occur in *Arena*, which, like *Feria*, culminates in a broad neo-Romantic melody of Berg-like richness. *Corrente II*, first heard at the North Festival in 1992, is as its title implies, more mobile, with rhythmic patterns repeated in ostinato figurations, though it too features aggregates of awesome density alternating with more tranquil passages.

All three pieces are powerful, individual statements by a composer beholden neither to mysticism nor superficial mechanistic trends. Refreshing, exhilarating and not to be missed.

RECITAL

Hilary Finch

■ BEETHOVEN
Sonatas Op 10, No 1 &
Op 11
Lars Vogt
EMI CDC 5 56136 2
*** £16.49

THOMAS MANN's reference in *Doktor Faustus* to "haggard C minor, with its wan, wild fire" has clearly inspired the young German pianist Lars Vogt in his new exploration on disc of the C minor Beethoven. The early Sonata No 5 (Op 10, No 1) flames ahead so that we feel the heat of its rhythmic energy almost physically. And its slow movement is never too slow to obscure the clarity of its melodic contours and the force of its fugal harmonic moves.

Beethoven's last sonata, the Op 111, is of course the great test. *Brio* and *appassionato* are qualities which Vogt possesses in no small measure, and the sheer excitement of his pushing against the sonata's tough C minor resistance is remarkable. But in the *Arietta* and its variations I would have liked a little more depth of resonance in this bright, unyielding acoustic and a greater sense of the vast distances of its musical terrain as well as the thrill of exploring it.

The real thrills, though, are in the brilliant fingerwork, fused with the searing clarity of Vogt's imaginative vision, in the Variations in C minor which Beethoven wrote between the *Appassionata* Sonata and the Fourth Piano Concerto.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
*** Worth buying

In Montpellier, Christopher Bowen finds fancy footwork off the sports field

Footie fever without a ball

Despite all evidence to the contrary, France has not been turned into a giant football pitch. While the world's television sets may be tuned to 24-hour coverage of the *Coupe du Monde* and the host nation appears to be revelling in the odd riot notwithstanding in the party atmosphere, normal life goes on.

Of course, in France life is normally pretty festive at this time of year, as the country's summer arts festivals kick into high gear. In Montpellier, for instance, they know a thing or two about fancy footwork. One of the first locations for France's impressive network of regional choreographic centres, the southern town has hosted an annual dance festival since 1981.

Under Jean-Paul Montanari's direction, this event has become a magnet for the world's major — and mainly contemporary — dance ensembles, as well as a showcase for French dance.

In previous years, Montanari has themed the event, and he was expected to reflect Montpellier's status as the *Coupe du Monde* host for the 18th festival. But any notion of a theme seems to have been abandoned in a festive mix of big names, grand events and new talent.

Not that the World Cup has been entirely ignored. There was a decidedly sporty look to the festival opener, Patrice Barthes's *Dry Wet*. Staged within the town's Olympic swimming pool, this site-specific work utilised not only the talents of Barthes's own dancers, but underwater cameras, and a team of synchronised swimmers. With their robotic movements, this latter ensemble looked — not surprisingly — a bit like fish out of water in the "dry" choreography on the sides of the pool. In their adopted element, however, their supremely graceful actions lent a

sense of mystery to the piece. Impressively, Barthes has not only crafted aquatic choreography a million miles from those cheesy competition routines, but has persuaded the swimmers to stop smiling. The ritual themes at the heart of the piece got a bit lost in the space. But with the underwater action projected onto a vast stone wall at one end of the pool and a circular auditorium and surrounding score of original music (by Michel Rodolfi) and various watery sounds, *Dry Wet* made an effective *pièce d'occasion*.

At the other end of the artistic spectrum — and in

another adapted space, the rock venue, *Le Zenith* — *la mer* emerged once more in Merce Cunningham's *Ocean*. Premiered in 1994, and subsequently presented by festivals that can afford its enormous cost, this extraordinary work takes Cunningham's view that no movement has a "front" or "back" by placing his dancers in the centre of a circular auditorium and surrounding both them and the audience with 120 musicians.

It is a hugely impressive event, though at these performances David Tudor's electronic score overwhelmed Andrew Culver's orchestral writing to distracting effect. And, it must be said, I have seen the Cunningham company look better. Those extended balances and awkward angles seemed unduly to tax more than a few of them; though to watch Foofwa d'imobilité (the artist formerly known as Frédéric Gafner) end a breathtaking run of whiplash turns with elegantly sustained rotations, or Thomas Caley unfold a series of arabesques as lovely as any corps of Shades, is to witness dance perfection.

As for Ballet Comunidad de Madrid, Victor Ullate may have a considerable reputation as a teacher, but the unyielding torsos of his dancers in *Don Quixote* made a dreary production look even more stiffly dull.

Curiously, it is the less technically based groups that have shown some of the best dancing. When Montpellier's resident choreographer, Mathilde Monnier, was not shuffling her ensemble round the stage in *Les Lieux de la* like a

bunch of agitated meercats, she was sending them flying with movements that seemed to explode in all directions. Even Castafiore's *Antropo*, for all its humorous take on comic-strip heroes, presents dance as sharply defined as you could wish.

But the revelation of the festival so far is the work of Boris Charmatz. In *Aan enen*, this young French choreographer and two other dancers perform linked solos on three stacked-up platforms. Naked except for white T-shirts, the performers seem exceptionally vulnerable but it is the weighty, free-flowing forms of the dance that make them strong. Charmatz is a talent to watch out for; and the discovery of new talent is what really makes a festival like Montpellier worthwhile.

● Montpellier Danse '98 runs until July 5 (00 33 46 618 360)



Going swimmingly: Patrice Barthes's complex *Dry Wet*

YAMAHA SPECIALIST
Chappell
Established 1911 / 1 of Bond Street
SUMMER SALE
YAMAHA ACOUSTIC GUITARS FROM £85
ELECTRIC GUITARS FROM £99
FREEPHONE LONDON 0500 004976
Chappell of Bond Street, 50 New Bond Street, London W1, also at Milton Keynes Shopping Centre.
FREEPHONE MILTON KEYNES 0500 003909
All offers subject to availability - correct at the time of going to press.

■ AMERICA'S SHAME

Close ties to slavery

BOOKS

■ SUBLIME SUBURBIA

Anne Tyler's latest novel

From Hamlet to Hammett: Peter Ackroyd admires a commentary teasing out the influences upon one of England's greatest poets

Native Auden rediscovered

There is a disquisition, in this erudite and informative commentary, upon the nature of blue in one of W. H. Auden's poems. It is "the colour of recent corpses" but also "the male colour". It is reminiscent of Stephen Spender whose eyes were the colour of bluebells and who laughed at the sound of "a carillon of bells". It is typical of John Fuller's style that so many allusions and associations should be compressed together, in that respect imitating Auden's own tightly packed verse.

This is a book of reference, as Fuller suggests, and is not meant to be read in any consecutive manner. In many ways it resembles a commonplace book, filled with paragraphs of research, allusion and memorable quotation. But it does also repay continuous reading, if only because it then yields up a history of influence and imagery which lies beneath any particular poem.

The first sources are familiar enough, among them Yeats and Eliot, but the pattern of Auden's borrowing is far more important. It was primarily a case of using whatever book was influencing him at the time. One of his choral landscapes was, according to Fuller, "borrowed directly from Anthony Collett, *The Changing Face of England*", and it is intriguing to note the opening of Dashiell Hammett's *The Thin Man* — "I was leaning against the bar in a speakeasy on Fifty Second Street" — as a possible prologue for "I sit in one of the dives/On Fifty-second street". We may surmise that, like the work of any great writer, Auden's poetry was a conflation of specific texts

with the fugitive memories of other reading. Whether it is necessary to tease out all the references is another matter; we may then run the risk of obscuring "lunar beauty" with its history, although there is perhaps a certain piquancy in knowing that within 17 lines of one poem there are allusions to Heidegger's *Being and Time*, Isherwood's *Down There On a Visit*, Goethe's *Faust*, Grodek's *Exploring The Unconscious* and Robert Briffault's *The Mothers: A study of the origin of sentiments and institutions*. Auden



W. H. Auden: his poems drew upon the landscape of his childhood and there was "an eternal tie between himself and England"

was, on occasion, educating his readers.

Some of his sources, however, go far deeper. Much of his childhood was spent in a Pennine landscape, and Fuller notes that one of Auden's principal influences was not the Bible or Shakespeare but Thomas Sopwith's *An Account of the Mining District of Alston Moor*, published in 1833; Fuller is also able to provide map references for an area of Co Durham which appears in *Paid On Both Sides*. No better example could be found for the theory that only from the local can the universal emerge.

Auden's affection for the English landscape is also part of a larger affection for origins. Fuller refers to Old English poetry as a direct influence upon Auden's earlier verse,

but he also establishes the larger English tradition which the poet was able effortlessly to evoke: throughout his work there are allusions to Skelton and to Blake, Housman and Hopkins. Unlike Pound and Eliot, who had with great difficulty to conjure up a tradition of their own, Auden had one already at hand. So Fuller writes of "the eternal tie between himself and England" as well as his "rediscovered Englishness".

In that sense prosody may be more important than any apparent theme, and Auden once remarked that meaning itself is "the pattern of growth determined during construction". He is not versifying a set of principles, in other words, and there are in fact passages of the *Commentary* which suggest that Fuller takes Auden's beliefs more seriously than the poet ever did.

The problem is, again, one of form. Once the principles or themes of the poetry are taken out of their poetic contexts, all too often they seem obvious and unsuitable. Auden's breezy didacticism allowed him to avoid any serious thought — he was a poet, after all, not a philosopher — but when rendered in plain prose his psychological seems merely silly and his pronouncements on matters of theology or epistemology often absurd. It could even be argued that Auden used these factitious beliefs and theories in order to protect himself against the unsettling power of his own lyric genius; they were a shield against self-knowledge. John Fuller himself provides many interesting commentaries upon, and criticisms of, individual works, but it is probably too late to care about Eros and Anima.



W. H. Auden: his poems drew upon the landscape of his childhood and there was "an eternal tie between himself and England"

Other kinds of explication are more novel. Given the biographical appetite by which Auden has already been consumed, it was inevitable that Fuller should be required to tease out some of the more private origins of the verse. It may or may not be helpful to learn that the exquisite *Lullaby* was addressed to a boy of 14; perhaps the connection reaffirms the universality of love. We may not be able to consider poems as Auden conceived of islands

— "of mysterious origin", as Fuller puts it, "and of equally unknown destination" — but detailed biographical explication may not necessarily provide the right kind of explanation. The minutiae of life should sometimes remain minute.

Yet there is much here of particular interest. Fuller demonstrates how Auden would move lines from one poem to another, add stanzas at a later date, and occasionally indulge in mild acts of self-censor-

ship. The poet kept a notebook in which he jotted down odd words, although his use of imagery remained constant. Fuller notes, for example, "Auden's many uses of the desert as a place of anxiety". There is another kind of continuity, also, as Fuller remarks upon the extent to which Auden's later poems come "curiously close" to the earliest work. In one of his last poems, *Dark-green upon Distant Heights*, for example, Auden returns to the

lead-mining landscape of his childhood as if in tribute to his original inspiration.

That inspiration has been enduring in more than one sense. Auden's reputation as a great English lyric poet has not been eclipsed by time or fashion; he is perhaps the greatest since Tennyson, and certainly no one has equalled him since his death. This *Commentary*, then, can be seen as a piece of fitting homage.

A family shackled to its history

Edward Ball, an American journalist, is the descendant of the Ball family of South Carolina which exploited more than 4,000 African slaves before the American Civil War destroyed their fortune. This book is his attempt to discover the extent and the nature of their slave owning.

The story starts with Elias Ball, a 17th-century Cornishman who worked the fertile rice-growing riverbanks with the labour of imported African slaves. The family prospered and sons-in-law went directly into slave trading. In the decade between 1751 and 1761, George Austin and Henry Laurens brought 61 slaving galleys carrying 8,000 people into their home port of Charleston.

Laurens and Austin became two of the richest men in 18th-century America. When the war against the Northern states came to Charleston, the Ball sons fought to defend their property of land and people. Ball gives two contrasting records of the arrival of the



Slaves in the Family: Edward Ball

conquering Union troops. One is from Mary Ball, in the big master's house, wearing her jewels under three dresses for fear of theft and rape. The other view is from the slave cabins where one slave, Elsie, threw her hat skywards when "The Yankee said, 'You're free as a bird in the air'".

After emancipation the lands were run as share-cropping ventures, but free labour was not as productive as a workforce which worked "black to black", from dark dawn to dark night. The Balls sank into the middle classes, sharing only a nostalgia for the great estates, and a belief that Ball slaves were neither beaten nor sexually exploited. Edward Ball has the courage to unveil this as a myth,

and reveals the "step aside" families of Ball men: the children of black slaves from whom the white master will "step aside" and ignore. Some of these children Edward Ball traces to their present descendants while some have disappeared: "gone over" as their black cousins would say, into white society.

It is a matter of great regret that this remarkable piece of research is written in a style which is hopelessly muddled. Instead of a linear history of the family or the times, Ball chooses instead to narrate the history of his research. This produces some powerfully moving and personal vignettes — as when he and a slave's descendant stand together in a derelict slave graveyard which can only be identified by the regular sinkings of the ground — but permits the juxtaposition of the history of the Civil War with the author's visit as a young child to Washington DC: a complete irrelevance which compounds the suspicion that Edward Ball



Ball with Caroline Smalls Goodson, a distant relative

sees himself as the hero of his own history.

Depending as he does on the Ball family papers, there is an inevitable bias towards the history of the masters. We have vivid descriptions of the Ball men's tendency to fatness, but the deaths of half of the slave children in the 18th century before they reach their 15th birthday is cited only briefly. The total number of Africans taken into slavery by the trade is a vexed question for

historians. James Walvin suggests that 15 million would be a conservative estimate for the total, 50 million a possibility, and that 3 million were taken to the United States alone. Ball cites a total of 9.5 million enslaved, and 450,000 slaves imported to the United States, a staggering 700 per cent underestimate. Anyone with an interest in the hidden history of the enslaved will detect white bias throughout this book.

But this is a thorough and

important piece of research. After he has rounded up all the Ball family members, and prepared family trees for Ball slaves, Edward Ball then traces his way back along the slave route from America to Africa's Bance Island.

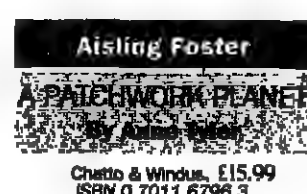
With all the power of an innocent abroad, he asks the African heirs of the slave traders direct questions as to whether they feel guilty for what they did to their own countrymen. Two heirs to slave traders answer no. But one slave-trade heir, Aikali Modu III, in Sierra Leone, tells Ball that the slave trade was "a long mistake, a long mistake by our ancestors. When we sit together we sometimes pray for those things which our ancestors have done 200, 300 years ago." It is to Edward Ball's credit that it is on this note that he closes his remarkable book.

Philipa Gregory's novel of the 18th-century slave trade, *A Respectable Trade*, was recently shown as a four-part drama on BBC 1.

Messy woman to the rescue

If this novel were a painting it could be called *Portrait of America*. Anne Tyler writes it like a great landscape artist. Far from the patchwork the title implies, her suburbs describe separateness and distance: her interiors mirror the souls of the people who live there; and the way they dress reveals subtle layers of class consciousness and states of mind.

Barnaby Gairdin shares that eye for detail. He is a 30-year-old divorcee with a fascination for other people's lives and a criminal record. He lives in a



A Patchwork Planet: Anne Tyler

in their own peculiar houses and finding nothing odd about seeing a two-year-old child in "a miniature business suit".

To Barnaby's status-driven mother, their success is next to godliness, causing Barnaby to wonder what goodness really means. "What makes some people more virtuous than others? ... Don't they ever feel that zingy, thrilling urge to smash the world to bits? Isn't it possible, maybe, that good people are just luckier people?" Yet the men of his family are unusually blessed. Ever since an unknown woman gave Great-grandfather Gairdin the idea for inventing the lucrative Faithful Feminine Twinform, they believe every generation is visited by a personal angel who will set their world to rights. Even Barnaby's father was kept from assassination in the street by a stranger who asked him to light her cigarette. So when Barnaby meets the angelic, highly organised Sophia in her feather-patterned coat, he thinks she has been sent to save him.

Of course, Tyler aficionados may recognise a feisty little figure with barrettes in her hair at the corner of the frame. But Barnaby's love life is only one pattern in an intricate canvas. Like everyone else here, his aged clients are wonderfully realised, showing the long-term effects of suburban conformity. Some give in to urges of rudeness or violence. Others continue to keep everything nice, their frustration demonstrated by an old lady "tugging fretfully at her fingers as if she were pulling off gloves". As in real life and death, comedy and tragedy collide, but unlike the disappointingly "happy" ending to Tyler's last novel, there is no attempt to resolve such problems. Instead, attention to detail combine with brilliant chiaroscuro to produce a modern classic. The picture is so rich and original that it will be revisited again and again.



Anne Tyler: a true original

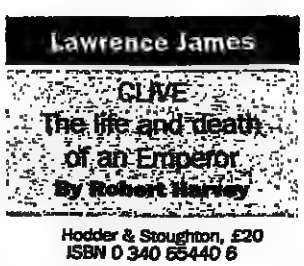
rented basement and has little interest in his appearance. At odds with his WASPy upbringing, he works for Kent-A-Back, an agency which supplies home help to the old or disabled, offering to do any task from putting out garbage to clearing attics. He enjoys the work, but his family dismisses it as Barnaby's "philanthropic activities". Occasional visits to his parents or ex-wife remind him of his failure to prosper. They recall his years as a teenage burglar, the boy for whom breaking in to read other people's letters and examine their photo albums was a far greater thrill than the alcohol-fuelled vandalism enjoyed by his childhood friends. Yet he was the one who was caught. His companions in crime are now college graduates, living

Hero past his sell-by date

The British distrust genius in their public men and are deeply jealous of spectacular success, the more so if it is achieved swiftly. For these reasons Robert Clive was reviled during his lifetime and has remained a controversial figure. He found his countrymen's hostility puzzling and wounding. Had he not been a brilliant commander of improvised armies, frustrated French ambitions in India and, by force of arms and sleight of hand, delivered the rich province of Bengal into the hands of the East India Company?

Later generations grudgingly acknowledged his achievements, but, like his contemporary translators, they could not bring themselves to love the man who had laid the foundations of British India. Robert Harvey explains why in a dashing biography full of rich detail and sharp comment.

Clive's early life progresses promisingly. Born in Shropshire in 1725, he joined the East India Company in 1743. A restless and sulky clerk, he turned a public emergency to his advantage when he discovered that he had the knack of inspiring Indian soldiers and leading them to victory. He returned to England with a wife, a pot of cash, and a hero's repu-



Clive: The life and death of an Emperor: Robert Harvey

tation. This is how Roderick Random might have ended up had he joined the East India Company rather than the Royal Navy.

But Clive returned to India where, according to Harvey, he underwent a journey into an inner, private "darkness" and succumbed to temptation. It happened like this: at the end of 1756 he was one of the commanders of an amphibious force which had been ordered to retake Calcutta, restore British prestige and chastise Siraj-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Bengal. Opportunities presented themselves which transformed Clive into a king-maker. Through forgery and lies he suborned enough of Siraj's adherents to make the Battle of Plassey a foregone conclusion. Siraj was subsequently murdered and the new Nawab doled out rewards to those who had helped him to

his throne, including Clive and his army.

Clive had made the Company the powerbrokers in Bengal which, after unsuccessful experiments with puppet rulers, became a British province. So far, so good, and Clive again returned home, now super-rich and ready to accept the applause of his grateful countrymen. It was not as loud as he would have wished, but this did not dull the edge of his new ambition, which was to purchase a clutch of rotten boroughs and use the tame MPs to play factional politics, British style.

His political career was interrupted by a crisis in Bengal, where he was sent as the only man able to cleanse its Government of corruption and re-establish the Company's authority. He failed in the former, succeeded in the latter: accompanied by elephants and a princely menagerie, including a tiger, Governor Clive cut a splendid figure, the very image of power as it was understood in India.

It was an image which many in Britain thought odious. "Asiatic" ostentation went hand in hand with "Asiatic" despotism. Was he dragging Britain along that path which had been trodden by Rome, whose ancient liberties and vir-

tues had been subverted by imperial wars of conquest and repression? Revealingly, a contemporary statue of Clive portrayed him in the armour of a Roman general.

The campaign against Clive gathered momentum in the early 1770s, when he was accused of every kind of vice including the Italian (sodomy). Behind the vilification was a band of envious Company officials, political hacks and old money, which, as ever, resented talented arrivistes buying political influence.

Clive survived parliamentary censure, but only just. The onslaught added to his sense of being undervalued and may have triggered spasms of melancholic self-doubt which had always troubled him. His final days were spent as a squire in his native Shropshire where he planned gardens and deplored the Government's policy towards the American colonies. His death, funeral and burial was a hugger-mugger affair. Contemporaries suspected suicide, but Harvey speculates that he may have been the victim of a row with his wife who stabbed him in the throat with a penknife. This is how a novelist might have terminated Clive's life — a lucky chancer killed by an unlucky mischance.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

SAVE £££s ON YOUR SUMMER READING

Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire by Amanda Foreman £20 now £14

Sadhu's by Robert Lacey £20 now £15

Our Lady of the Sevens by Paul Richardson £16.99 now £12.99

Barth's by Philip Gregory £16.99 now £12.99

The Spears of Twilight by Philippe Descola £8.99 now £5.99

The Bronski House by Philip Marsden £6.99 now £4.99

Planning to travel this summer? The Bookshop has the guides for you. Please call for details for these or any book in print.

● FREE UK p&p ● Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability

● 24-hour service. Staff available 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday.

CALL: 0345 660 916 (CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE)

Call +44 990 134 459 from overseas and the Republic of Ireland, fax +44 1326 374 888, e-mail: bookshop@the-times.co.uk

Or post coupon to: News Books, FREPOST, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2BR

Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet):

City	Title/Author	Total Price

Surname _____ Initial _____ Title _____

Address _____ Postcode _____ Tel _____

I enclose cheque/PO(s) payable to NEWS BOOKS for a total of £ _____

Please write your name and address on the back of all cheques

Debit my Mastercard/Visa/AmEx, Switch or Delta account no: _____

Print Name _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by air/rail in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Airmail outside Europe add 35%.)

The suggested retail price of a book can be subject to change by the publisher without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers ☐

JULY 2 1998
ALBANIA
ST. NOVEL
test paper

ALBANIA EXPOSED
Hoxha's bitter legacy

John and her cross

In January 1998, under the 70-year rule, the Public Record Office released government papers relating to the infamous obscenity trial of *The Well of Loneliness*.

In 1928, Radclyffe Hall's lesbian novel had been made the target of a hate campaign by *The Sunday Express*: "I would rather give a healthy boy or a healthy girl a phial of prussic acid than this novel," declared the Editor. The paper publicly urged the Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, to intervene and ban the book. It was the beginning of a drama that landed Radclyffe Hall and her publisher, Jonathan Cape, in court and ended with seized copies of the book being burnt in the King's furnace.

Or did it end there? Apart from ensuring that *The Well of Loneliness* would become the best known lesbian novel in the world, the episode seems to be causing as much embarrassment for the Government now as it did in 1928. When Diana Souhami went to the Public Record Office to inspect the newly released papers, she found that many of the files were empty. She made inquiries and was told that the material was "sensitive", that its release was "not in the public interest".

Mrs Souhami protested. She wrote letters. She was told that the matter would be reviewed. It was reviewed and still the papers have been retained. It is another bizarre twist in the strange story of Marguerite Radclyffe Hall, better known as "John". She was born in 1884 and raised by her neurotic mother with occasional visits from her playboy father — whose nickname was Rat. Rat left his daughter his good looks, charm, waywardness and money. At 18 she

Radclyffe Hall still unsettles society.
Jeanette Winterson discovers

**THE TRIALS OF
RADCLYFFE HALL**
By Diana Souhami

Weydenfield & Nicholson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81625 2

inherited £100,000 (worth today about £5 million), and began to spend it on her passions: hunting, houses, travel and women.

Her first serious love affair was with an Edwardian beauty, Mabel Batten. Mrs Batten was beginning to age, but she was cultured and refined. She successfully deflected the squire image that Radclyffe Hall had been enjoying, and tried to teach her that poetry was better than horses. John liked the idea of being a poet and poured out a quantity of awful verse, but she was a young-minded heart and too much high-mindedness made her nervous. When she met Mabel's cousin, Una Troubridge, suddenly parties, picnics, dogs and sex seemed much more fun.

Una and John began an affair that became a partnership lasting 30 years. Neither cared much for the suffering caused to Mabel Batten or Una's husband, Admiral Troubridge. Troubridge was dumped. Mrs Batten died, and out of guilt Radclyffe Hall bought her a vault in Highgate Cemetery and began con-

sulting a medium in Maida Vale, who assured her well-paying clients that "Lady" was delighted for John and Una to be together.

The scenarios were going so well that John and Una, when not breeding dachshunds or moving house, decided to present their findings to the Society for Psychical Research.

John was to be elected to the Society's council, when the president wrote a formal complaint charging Radclyffe Hall with seducing his friend Troubridge's wife and wrecking the admiral's home. He called her "a grossly immoral woman". Radclyffe Hall sued him for libel.

It might have been ordinary enough, but Sir John Fox-Pitt, now the defendant, was married to Edith Douglas; that is, his father-in-law was the Marquis of Queensberry, who had faced Oscar Wilde in much the same way.

This time, Radclyffe Hall won, and there were no laws for the Public Prosecutor to use to reopen the case himself. She had won but she had attracted the attention of some powerful enemies. The next time the courts got a chance at Radclyffe Hall, they would not let her escape.

Meanwhile, Una, like Mabel Batten, set about reinventing "her John". She corrected her spelling, commented her wounded prose, got her a commercial publisher and an agent, and had her write novels. In 1926 *Adam's Breed* won the Prix Femina. It was a novel, like all her novels, resistant to innovation and with no trace of experiment. John and Una both thought Modernism a fad and were delighted that the prize judges and the reading public had proved them right. Radclyffe Hall was now famous as well as rich.

It was a deliberate decision to



Gone to the dogs: Una and John with their dachshunds in 1923

stake everything on *The Well of Loneliness*. She had a large readership and she was determined that these readers should come to understand homosexuality. It didn't occur to her that conservative types who didn't want to read Joyce or Woolf would hardly be sympathetic to new definitions of sexuality.

The trials broke her health and cost her her house in London. What follows is a sad waste of failed books

and failed emotion. She fell desperately in love again with a Russian nurse, an ordinary woman who did not need John to be a hero, but the bitter triangle with Una lasted nine years and was not resolved when John died of cancer in 1943.

Diana Souhami's biography is fascinating and thorough. In style, substance, insight and wit it is by far the best thing anyone has written on the fateful life of Radclyffe Hall.

WILD NIGHTS

Vargas Llosa's latest

Tale of erotica in the hands of the master

Don Rigoberto is a hedonist, an erotomaniac and a man whose private life is ruled by the most exotic of fantasies. His dull working days as an insurance executive serve only to fund his love of art, literature and the pursuit of pleasure.

A Peruvian intellectual libertine, who records his thoughts, unmet letters and a raft of apocryphal ideas and quotations in a series of notebooks, Don Rigoberto is also feeling quite alone as Mario Vargas Llosa starts off a complicated, compelling new novel.

The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto, set in modern day Lima, is a classic Vargas Llosa tale of art and desire, as opposed to one of his more politically oriented pieces. It is the story of a love triangle involving Rigoberto, his second wife Lucrécia, and Rigoberto's unloving son Alfonso.

It is precocious Alfonso — a masculine Lolita, obsessed with the seamstress side of the life and the art of Egon Schiele — who is the reason for Rigoberto and Lucrécia's separation. Despite his schoolboy status, Alfonso has a handsome charm and a beguiling innocence with which he has seduced his stepmother, earning her an unhappy exile, across the city, from her husband.

As devoted Alfonso works to reunite his father and his wife, Rigoberto drowns his sorrows by recounting a long line of erotic escapades that happen to his younger, more athletic wife.

There is an episode with cats, honey and smeared naked flesh; an encounter with Rigoberto's wife-swapping brother Narciso; an opportunistic trip to Paris and Vienna with a lover from long ago who sings to stop himself coming too soon; a steamy lesbian affair with the wife of an Algerian ambassador and a strange meeting with a eunuch motorcyclist who only wants to hear Lucrécia piss.

All are recorded with erotic skill, but for Rigoberto the constants throughout these sexual games are his own monogamy, pleasure and a deep love for his wife, Lucrécia. And until the very end of Vargas Llosa's novel, there is little distinction between what might be "truth" and what is imaginary — the whole fabric of the book is layered with uncertainty, blurring the line between reality and imagination.

With a constant stream of literary references, as well as woven excerpts from the notebooks themselves, there is a rich intertextual dimension to what is a highly self-referential book. One of its main pre-

Dominic Bradbury
**THE NOTEBOOKS OF
DON RIGOBERTO**
By Mario Vargas Llosa
Translated by Edith Grossman
Faber, £15.99
ISBN 0 571 19309 9



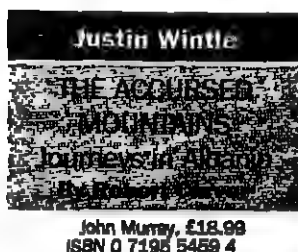
Vargas Llosa: sophisticated

occupations is to do with the nature of fiction itself and the importance of imagination. The triptych of main characters are all busy escaping reality: Rigoberto and Lucrécia's relationship revolves around fantasy and Alfonso is increasingly convinced that somehow he is the reincarnation of Egon Schiele, acting out — with the help of his stepmother — scenes from his paintings.

Playing in the borderland between reality and dreams, without which their lives might be, at best, dull and, at worst, sordid, the three of them revel in "the beautiful lie of fiction", but also risk their relationships by losing themselves in their own dreams and desires. And Rigoberto, at least, finally realises that "dreams were a feeble lie, a fleeting deception that provided only temporary escape from frustration and solitude in order that we might better appreciate with more painful bitterness the beauty and substantiality of real life".

If there is a fault here, it is a touch of overstretching in what is — at heart — a fairly limited story, and one which returns to the existing characters of an earlier book, *Yu Praise of the Stepmother*. Yet *The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto* stands up well as a curious mix of eroticism, literary sophistication and dark comedy. Intricately constructed and beautifully conceived, it reaffirms Mario Vargas Llosa's reputation, alongside Gabriel García Márquez, as one of South America's finest contemporary writers.

Republic of the damned



John Murray, £18.99
ISBN 0 7196 5489 4

In his 1974 book, *Pickaxe and Rifle*, which for a long time was about all there was on Albania, Bill Ash tried to do for Enver Hoxha what other Western dissidents had done for Ho Chi Minh. The Albanian revolution, he proposed, was a wondrous achievement by a small people always, historically, up against it. As for the Albanians themselves, "their steadfast dedication to the ideals of socialism have fully deserved the quality of life enjoyed in Albania today".

To read these sentiments now invites slapstick derision. While no two communisms have collapsed in identical fashion, what all ex-communisms teach us is that life under the deposed regimes was invariably more hateful than even the keenest of their external critics dare imagine.

Moreover, the legacy of such failure has, in more cases than not, been further failure, often of greater proportions than the parent catastrophe itself. Corruption, lawlessness and economic meltdown have proved the usual, and sometimes insoluble, concomitants of the Marxist denouement.

For the serious travel writer, wanting to distance himself from the "ordinary" tourist and copy up to what still seems the vital membrane of this century's history, these circumstances are a welcome if alarming boon.

How glorious, is it not, to be among the first "Westerners" to "witness" the cataclysm and/or its aftermath? To take the risk, and return, Graham Greene-wise, with a pallet of riveting copy?

Equipped with dollars, courage and formidable writing skills, Robert Carver undertook his version of the dangerous journey in the summer of 1990, when the allegedly democratic Government of Dr Sali Berisha was already fatally compromised.

What he discovered, as no one else has with quite the same determined despairing nerve, was an enclave nation composed of disparate loyalties (Muslim, Christian, Slav, Greek, Vlachs etc) that somehow combined all the worst features of North Korea, Bosnia Herzegovina and (for good measure) Haiti of the Duvaliers: a country bereft even of the pity of war.

The Accursed Mountains offers fresh horrors on every page, culled from either the immediate Hoxha past, or the Berisha present, until the two merge in a tapestry of near-bizarre complementarity. Mur-



A country bereft of even the pity of war: colossal statue of Enver Hoxha, the dictator whose rule, long after his death, continues to oppress Albania

der and rape are always in the air, sometimes joining forces, as in the case of the wretched Bulgarian diplomat ceremoniously sodomised before his dispatch — a time-honoured Albanian custom, we are told.

Making his way from an entry point on the Greek border in the southwest to the inhospitable mountains of the north, Carver develops an eminently pragmatic aversion

for both the places and the people he encounters: for truly, if his journal is to be believed at all, he has stumbled into, and cannot stumble out of, the Republic of the Damned, Europe's very own Cambodia, no less.

At first it appears to Carver that the Albanians have no backbone, moral or otherwise. But gradually it becomes clear to him that an entire machin-

ery of desuetude is and always has been in place. Forget about communism, forget about democracy. What makes a mockery of any politics in Albania, and probably any religion, is an archaic adherence to clan-based blood-feuds: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and if you happen not to belong to any clan then so much the worse.

Does Carver overstate his

case? Compelling as it is, *The Accursed Mountains* sometimes made me wonder whether its author hadn't exchanged Ash's absurdly rose-tinted spectacles for a thorn-rimmed pair of his own.

There are few, if any, moments of compassion, and when Carver's reflections do take time out he coughs up such phrases as "the miserabilism of the British". Most days

destitution is all he sees. Yet the following year the Berisha regime crumbled on the back of the "pyramid" scandal. Huge numbers of Albanians discovered how unwisely they had invested their savings. Savings? What savings? Yet such is its suasion, it is unimaginable that anyone who reads Carver's book will wish to put such scepticism to the test.

Paper torches for those with money to burn

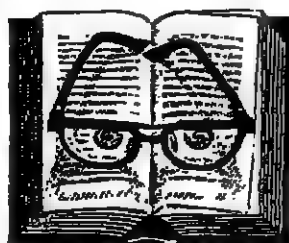
THE book collector's three criteria these days are condition, condition and condition. A copy of *Don Juan* or *Emma* in the original ugly paper boards is worth much more than one in a beautiful period leather binding. The vindication for this is that the book has not been "sophisticated" — mucked about with — and so, being in the state in which it left the printer, tells more of its history.

But this is to forget that books were made to be bound, either by the bookseller or by the purchaser, so one that wasn't is a freak. It is also to overlook the pleasure and historical insight to be derived from bindings and other aspects of ownership history such as bookplates, anno-

tation and Grangerising (the addition of extra plates).

Yes, a mini copy of the earliest appearance of a book can be thrilling, but today's premiums can be absurd. This was brought home to me by some T. S. Eliot rarities at the Antiquarian Booksellers Association's fair at Olympia. A copy of *Prufrock* which could legitimately be described as perfect was priced at £17,500. But since this fragile pamphlet would be damaged by handling, no buyer will ever read it. This makes it something less than a book, like those literary virgins that are valued because their pages have never been cut open.

Another dealer had two copies of the first American printing of *The Waste Land*,



BIBLIOMANE

one from early in the run, one from later. There are tiny differences between the two states and the earlier and slightly brighter copy also had its dustjacket. One was priced at \$20,000, the other at \$500.

This discrepancy shows how frivolous this realm of collecting has become. To

make the dustjacket 39 times more valuable than the book is to make a fetish of incidentals. What exactly doth it profit a man to have the exorbitantly rare jacket to some 1890s title when it consists merely of a piece of unprinted grey paper? And how long will people go on paying enormous premiums for rare wrappers without reference to their intrinsic importance?

Different generations of bibliophiles have different priorities, as John Carver demonstrated in *Taste and Technique in Book-Collecting*. Writing at the end of the 1940s, he noticed a relaxing of the insistence that old books should contain the "material marginal to completeness", such as the blank leaves and

the publisher's advertisements that are "called for" by bibliographers.

More recently, in the 1980s, proof copies of contemporary fiction were fashionable, because they were thought to be scarce and to give evidence about the process of composition. With some exceptions, that enthusiasm evaporated when it turned out that proofs were often widely circulated.

Back in 1948 Carver wrote that "only the lunatic fringe pushed the pursuit of 'mint' condition to the point where dust-jackets were considered a matter of serious concern". That may sound quaint now, but Carver knew a thing or two about collecting books.

Jim McCue

30p THE TIMES

WIN FOUR WHEELS AND £10,000.

(THAT SHOULD GET YOU TO THE 2002 WORLD CUP.)

Play Team Check today and every day
with the chance to win one of
two Vauxhall cars or £10,000.
Remember the '98 World Cup
as the year you won.

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Only applicable in mainland Britain.

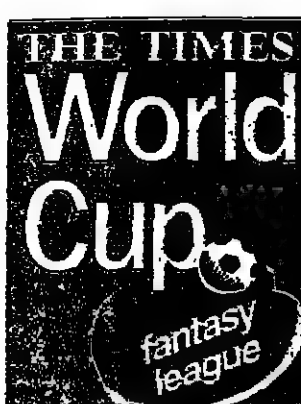
Last chance to boost your Fantasy League team

The leaderboard for our Fantasy League game after the completion of the second round matches appears right. It shows Trevor Curtis of north London leading the race for our £25,000 star prize with his team, Wood Green MXV, on 102 points. Defender Laurent Blanc, France, and Brazilian striker Ronaldo earned him six points each in the second round matches.

HOW TO MAKE TRANSFERS

Until midday tomorrow, Friday July 3, you can include a maximum of two players from each of the national squads in your World Cup 98 Fantasy League team. Your allowance of six transfers in the competition must be made by noon tomorrow, Friday, July 3, after this teams cannot be changed. You must maintain a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two forwards). To make transfers, call 0839 11 11 00 (Ex UK +44 870 901 4290) and follow the step-by-step instructions. Have your PIN and the three digit codes of the players you wish to transfer to hand.

TRANSFER HOTLINE
0839 11 11 00
(Ex UK +44 870 901 4290)
0839 calls cost 50p per minute. +44 870 calls charged at national rate.



ITALY V FRANCE
LIVE COMMENTARY ON
TALK RADIO FROM 3pm
TOMORROW WITH
ALAN PARRY & ANDY GRAY
BRAZIL V DENMARK
LIVE COMMENTARY ON TALK
RADIO FROM 7pm TOMORROW
WITH TONY LOCKWOOD
& CLIVE ALLEN
radio
Make Talk Radio your
official World Cup Station



FAXBACK SERVICE

To receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team and their performance use our unique faxback service. The service will be updated throughout the game. Make sure you have your 10-digit PIN to hand when you call. Pick up the handset of your fax machine (if you do not have a handset then press the on-hook or telephone button instead) and dial 0991 11 13 34. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. This service is only available in the UK. If you have any problems using this service, call the faxback helpline on 0171 412 3795.

FAXBACK HOTLINE
0991 11 13 34
0991 calls cost £1 per minute.

CHECKLINE

Check the scores and position of your teams in the Fantasy League by calling our checkline below and tap in your 10-digit PIN. The line currently carries details of the score and position of your team for all the second round games played in each World Cup group. From noon on Wednesday July 8, the line will be updated to include all the quarter-final results.

Checkline 0839 11 11 91
(outside UK +44 990 200 571)

All information provided by Fantasy League Limited ©
© Fantasy League Limited

TOP 50 IN THE FANTASY LEAGUE

1	Wood Green M X V	Trevor Curtis	102
2	Overabundance	David Mercer	101
3	The Charlie Begg	Eoghan Quigley	99
4	Dream Team AFC	Richard O'Connell	99
5	Sheethings Weds	Andrew Dobson	97
6	Pimp Seven	P Tuser	97
7	Global Glorious	Christian Penet	96
8	No name	Barry Coulson	95
9	Blue Sprouts	John Fisher	95
10	Mazza	T Ahmed	94
11	The Times Eleven	James Doody	94
12	Moe Gitz 35	Kassahun Mammo	94
13	Hex-Q	Even Hardle	94
14	Held's Hopefuls	Gareth Cotterell	94
15	The Mekon	Nabil Lambert	93
16	Foreign Legion	Mr A Stickland	93
17	Total Insanity	Steven Arnold	93
18	Super Sticks	Mark Nicholson	93
19	The Winners	David Morrison	93
20	LJ Silver United	David Fieldwick	93
21	Theworldwizards	Alex Sutherland	93
22	Fergie Must Go	Colvi Edwards	93
23	Wild Cherry FC	James Doody	92
24	Moe Gitz 33	Jim Main	92
25	Main Rhoyes	Shona Alder	92
26	Shona's World XI	Kunal Oak	92
27	Chapachras XI	Mr C Salt	92
28	How We Go Again	Antonio Geha	92
29	Harrovians United	John Morgan	92
30	Johnny's Boys	A McAllister	92
31	Chalney Thirs	Andrew Harding	92
32	Plastered In Par	K M Burns	92
33	Mark's Rebels	Richard Craig	92
34	Ricky Vals	Lisa O'Neill	92
35	Covestardian FC	Richard Smith	92
36	No Chance XI	Anthony Bennett	92
37	Deviation Utd	Jay Teacher	91
38	Gazza's Fag-Ends	Trevor Etherington	91
39	Ton Rovers	Hocine Talemalek	91
40	Yankee Heroes	Ian Johnston	91
41	World Dancers	Ian Stroud	91
42	Shaved And Wild	Tom Blundy	91
43	London Malakias	Mr A Dahir	91
44	Armad's All Stars	Mr A Carter	91
45	Heros Mirrors	Warren Clarke	91
46	Brown Heads	No name	91
47	Matt's Marvels	Gerard Mullyally	91
48	God's Barry Army	Tim Godfrey	91
49	Josh Be Lucky	Yannis Agouris	91
50	Kaffri 2		91

Plus eight others on 91 points

UP-TO-DATE PLAYER SCORES WITH LATEST ROUND AND TOTAL

GOALKEEPERS			
Player	Country	Rd	Tot
101 Carlos Noya	Argentina	-1	8
102 Pablo Cavallo	Argentina	0	0
103 German Adrian Burgos	Argentina	0	0
104 Michael Kossel	Austria	-1	-1
105 Franz Wohlfahrt	Austria	0	0
106 Filip de Wilde	Belgium	0	2
107 Taffarel	Brazil	0	2
108 Carlos Gormane	Brazil	0	0
109 Boris Bihelashvili	Bulgaria	0	0
110 Zlatko Zahariev	Bulgaria	0	-2
111 Jacques Song'o	Cameroon	0	-2
112 Nelson Tapa	Chile	-3	-4
113 Marcelo Ramirez	Chile	0	0
114 Oscar Cardozo	Colombia	0	0
115 Farid Mondragon	Colombia	0	0
116 Dusan Ladis	Croatia	3	6
117 Marjan Minkic	Croatia	0	0
118 Peter Schmeichel	Denmark	0	2
119 Bogdan Rado	Denmark	0	0
120 David Seaman	England	-1	4
121 Tim Flowers	England	0	0
122 Nigel Martyn	England	0	0
123 Edward Lewis	France	0	0
124 Fabien Barthez	France	3	11
125 Andreassen	Germany	0	0
126 Oliver Kahn	Germany	0	0
127 Ed de Gooijer	Holland	0	0
128 Edwin van der Sar	Holland	0	0
129 Alessandro Mendez	Iran	-1	-1
130 Gianluca Pagliaro	Italy	3	5
131 Gianluigi Buffon	Italy	0	0
132 Warren Barrett	Jamaica	-6	-6
133 Yoshikazu Kawaguchi	Japan	-1	-1
134 Jorge Campos	Mexico	-1	-3
135 Abdelkader El Brazi	Morocco	0	0
136 Willy Bosman	Morocco	0	0
137 Dries Ouyss	Nigeria	0	0
138 Peter Ruff	Nigeria	-3	-3
139 Frode Grodås	Norway	0	-1
140 Thomas Myrnes	Norway	0	0
141 Jose Luis Chilavert	Paraguay	0	6
142 Ruben Ruiz Diaz	Paraguay	0	0
143 Bogdan Stokic	Romania	0	3
144 Florin Prunea	Romania	0	0
145 Andre Aranda	South Africa	0	0
146 Brian Baloji	South Africa	0	0
147 Hani Youk	Saudi Arabia	-3	-3
148 Mohammed Al-Deayea	Saudi Arabia	-4	-4
149 Jim Leighton	Scotland	0	-3
150 Neil Sullivan	Scotland	0	0
151 Kim Byung-il	South Korea	-6	-6
152 Andoni Zubizarreta	Spain	0	1
153 Santiago Caizares	Spain	0	0
154 Ali Boumelfel	Tunisia	0	0
155 Brad Friedel	United States	-2	-2
156 Kasey Keller	Yugoslavia	-1	-4
157 Ivica Kralj	Yugoslavia	0	0
158 Dragolje Lekovic	Yugoslavia	0	0

DEFENDERS			
Player	Country	Rd	Tot
201 Nestor Soccol	Argentina	0	1
202 Jose Chamot	Argentina	-1	-2
203 Roberto Ayala	Argentina	-1	8
204 Javier Zanetti	Argentina	2	9
205 Pablo Paz	Argentina	0	3
206 Anton Pfeiffer	Austria	0	1
207 Peter Schotthel	Austria	0	-1
208 Wolfgang Petersen	Austria	0	-1
209 Martin Hiden	Austria	0	0
210 Bartosz Berman	Belgium	0	0
211 Eric van Meer	Belgium	0	0
212 Vital Borislavov	Belgium	0	2
213 Eric Deflandre	Belgium	0	0
214 Aldair	Brazil	0	3
215 Roberto Carlos	Brazil	0	6
216 Goncalves	Brazil	0	-1
217 Ze Roberto	Brazil	0	0
218 Junior Batista	Brazil	0	2
219 Andre Cruz	Brazil	0	0
220 Ze Carlos	Brazil	0	0
221 Trifon Ivanov	Bulgaria	-2	-2
222 Radoslaw Kucharski	Bulgaria	0	-2
223 Goshko Gluchev	Bulgaria	0	-5
224 Ivailo Petkov	Bulgaria	0	3
225 Rigobert Song	Cameroon	0	-2
226 Javier Margas	Chile	-3	-3
227 Ronald Fuentes	Chile	-3	-4
228 Cristian Caramona	Chile	0	-1
229 Pedro Reyes	Chile	-3	-2
230 Wilmar Cabrera	Colombia	0	2
231 Jorge Bermudez	Colombia	0	2
232 Ivan Cortoba	Colombia	0	0
233 Wilmar Perez	Colombia	0	0
234 Robert Jara	Croatia	3	8
235 Slaven Bilic	Croatia	3	6
236 Igor Stinac	Croatia	3	6
237 Denis Simic	Croatia	3	6
238 Goran Juric	Croatia	0	0
239 Marc Rieper	Denmark	0	5

238 Jon Hogg	Denmark	0	2
239 Thomas Helveg	Denmark	3	5
240 Jacob Laursen	Denmark	0	0
241 Tony Adams	England	-1	4
242 Gary Neville	England	-1	1
243 Graeme Le Saux	England	-1	6
244 Gareth Southgate	England	1	4
245 Martin Keown	England	0	0
246 Sol Campbell	England	-1	4
247 Rio Ferdinand	England	0	0
248 Laurent Blanc	France	6	12
249 Marcel Desailly	France	3	9
250 Lilian Thuram	France	3	11
251 Sylvain Wiltord	France	3	14
252 Frank Leboeuf	France	0	0
253 Lothar Matthaus	Germany	0	3
254 Jürgen Kohler	Germany	0	5
255 Stefan Reuter	Germany	0	1
256 Thomas Helmer	Germany	0	0
257 Ulf Tim	Germany	0	5
258 Marius Rühl	Germany	0	0
259 Christian Wörns	Germany	0	5
260 Frank de Boer	Holland	2	7
261 Arthur Romm	Holland	0	7
262 Michael Reiziger	Holland	0	-1
263 Wim Rijkers	Holland	0	-2
264 Wim Rijkers	Holland	0	-2
265 Jans Stam	Holland	0	5
266 Mohammad Khakpour	Iran	0	-1
267 Paolo Maldini	Italy	3	5
268 Alessandro Costacurta	Italy	3	5
269 Fabio Cannavaro	Italy	0	2
270 Alessandro Nesta	Italy	0	2
271 Giuseppe Bergomi	Italy	3	3
272 Gianluca Passotio	Italy	0	0
273 Marcello Torricelli	Italy	0	0
274 Dennis Brown	Jamaica	0	0
275 Frank Sinclair	Jamaica	0	-6
276 Masashi Iwano	Japan	-1	-1
277 Claudio Suarez	Mexico	-1	-1
278 Delfino Davino	Mexico	-1	-3
279 Farid Fardji	Mexico	-1	-3
280 Norredine Naybet	Morocco	0	0
281 Uche Okechukwu	Nigeria	-3	-1
282 Yariel West	Nigeria	-3	-3
283 Celestine Babayaro	Nigeria	-3	-3
284 Stig Inge Bjørnseth	Norway	0	3
285 Gunnar Halle	Norway	0	0
286 Henning Berg	Norway	0	1
287 Ronny Johnsen	Norway	0	-1
288 Catalino Mivara	Paraguay	0	0
289 Carlos Gamarra	Paraguay	0	6
290 Francisco Arce	Paraguay	0	5
291 George Popescu	Romania	0	4
292 Dan Petrescu	Romania	0	6
293 Tibor Selymes	Romania	0	0
294 Andon Dabov	Romania	0	0
295 Lucas Radu	South Africa	0	-3
296 Mark Fish	South Africa	0	-3
297 Ahmed Jihad Mideel	Saudi Arabia	0	0
298 Tom Boyd	Scotland	0	-3
299 Colin Hendry	Scotland	0	-3
300 Colin Calderwood	Scotland	0	-1
301 Josh McKinlay	Scotland	0	-1
302 Christian Duffly	Scotland	0	-3
303 Matt Elliott	Scotland	0	0
304 Jackie McNamara	Scotland	0	-1
305 Lee Wai-Sang	South Korea	0	-6
306 Hong Myung-Soo	South Korea	0	-6
307 Rafael Alkorta	Spain	0	1
308 Miguel Angel Nadal	Spain	0	-1
309 Abelardo Fernandez	Spain	0	1
310 Albert Ferrer	Spain	0	0
311 Sergi Barja	Spain	0	1
312 Sami Trahelel	Tunisia	0	-1
313 Marouf Saboun	United States	0	0
314 Alon Lital	United States	0	0
315 Stojan Mitkovic	Yugoslavia	0	10
316 Zoran Mitkovic	Yugoslavia	-1	-2
317 Goran Djorovic	Yugoslavia	-1	4
318 Miroslav Djokic	Yugoslavia	0	0

MIDFIELDERS			
Player	Country	Rd	Tot
401 Diego Simeone	Argentina	2	4
402 Ariel Ortega	Argentina	0	10
403 Martin Almeyda	Argentina	0	0
404 Juan Sebastian Veron	Argentina	2	4
405 Marcelo Gallardo	Argentina	0	0
406 Andreas Herzog	Austria	0	3
407 Peter Stoger	Austria	0	0
408 Helmo Pfeifferberger	Austria	0	0
409 Ivica Vastic	Austria	0	3
410 Franky van der Elst	Belgium	0	0
411 Enzo Scifo	Belgium	0	0
412 Lorenzo Staelens	Belgium	0	0
413 Nico van Kerckhoven	Belgium	0	6
414 Gert Verbeke	Belgium	0	0
415 Philippe Clement	Belgium	0	0
416 Leonardo	Brazil	0	0
417 Denilson	Brazil	2	4
418 Zoubeir Baya	Brazil	0	5
419 Dunga	Brazil	0	5
420 Dunga	Brazil	2	2
421 Diego Simeone	Argentina	2	4
422 Ariel Ortega	Argentina	0	10
423 Martin Almeyda	Argentina	0	0
424 Juan Sebastian Veron	Argentina	2	4
425 Marcelo Gallardo	Argentina	0	0
426 Andreas Herzog	Austria	0	3
427 Peter Stoger	Austria	0	0
428 Helmo Pfeifferberger	Austria	0	0
429 Ivica Vastic	Austria	0	3
430 Franky van der Elst	Belgium	0	0
431 Enzo Scifo	Belgium	0	0
432 Lorenzo Staelens	Belgium	0	0
433 Nico van Kerckhoven	Belgium	0	6
434 Gert Verbeke	Belgium	0	0
435 Philippe Clement	Belgium	0	0
436 Leonardo	Brazil	0	0
437 Denilson	Brazil	2	4
438 Zoubeir Baya	Brazil	0	5
439 Dunga	Brazil	0	5
440 Dunga	Brazil	2	2

542	César Sampaio	Brazil	6	9
543	Giovanni	Brazil	0	0
544	Zlatko Yanchev	Bulgaria	0	0
545	Krasimir Balakov	Bulgaria	0	0
546	Daniel Borichev	Bulgaria	0	2
547	Ivailo Yordanov	Bulgaria	0	0
548	Angelino Elmo	Cameroon	0	0
549	Solomon Okecha	Cameroon	0	0
550	Luis Maza	Chile	0	0
551	José Luis Sierra	Chile	0	3
552	Marcelo Vega	Chile	0	0
553	Clarence Acuna	Chile	0	2
554	Carlos Valderrama	Colombia	0	2
555	Freddy Rincon	Colombia	0	0
556	Mauricio Serna	Colombia	0	0
557	Aljosa Asanovic	Croatia	2	4
558	Zvonimir Boban	Croatia	0	0
559	Robert Prosinecki	Croatia	0	0
560	Mario Stani	Croatia	0	5
561	Kresimir Jurek	Croatia	0	0
562	Silvio Maric	Croatia	0	0
563	Michael Laudrup	Denmark	4	7
564	Michael Schusterberg	Denmark	0	0
565	Allan Nielsen	Denmark	0	3
566	Per Frandsen	Denmark	0	0
567	Paul Ince	England	0	2
568	David Batty	England	0	0
569	Steve McNamara	England	0	0
570	Paul Merson	England	0	0
571	Darren Anderson	England	0	3
572	Robert Lee	England	0	0
573	David Beckham	England	2	5
574	Paul Scholes	England	0	5
575	Djibril Cissé	France	0	0
576	Younis El-Kouf	France	0	7
577	Zinedine Zidane	France	0	2
578	Christian Karembeu	France	0	0
579	Emmanuel Petit	France	0	3
580	Patrick Vieira	France	0	0
581	Thomas Häßler	Germany	0	2
582	Andreas Möller	Germany	0	3
583	Christian Ziege	Germany	0	0
584	Jörg Heiserich	Germany	0	0
585	Michael Tarnat	Germany	0	3
586	Stefan Krause	Germany	0	0
587	Detmar Hermann	Germany	0	0
588	Jens Jönsson	Germany	0	4
589	Arjen Winter	Holland	0	2
590	Wim Jonck	Holland	0	4
591	Frank de Boer	Holland	2	8
592	Mark Overmars	Holland	0	5
593	Clarence Seedorf	Holland	0	0
594	Phillip Cocu	Holland	0	8
595	Edgar Davids	Holland	3	3
596	Hamid Estili	Iran	0	3
597	Karim Bagheri	Iran	0	0
598	Demetrio Albertini	Italy	0	0
599	Dino Zoff	Italy	0	0
600	Roberto Di Matteo	Italy	0	0
601	Angelo Di Livio	Italy	0	0
602	Roberto Baggio	Italy	0	10
603	Petar Cergić	Jamaica	0	0
604	Theodore Whitmore	Jamaica	0	6
605	Fitzroy Simpson	Jamaica	0	2
606	Robbie Earle	Jamaica	0	3
607	Hiroshi Nanami	Japan	0	0
608	Hidetoshi Nakata	Japan	0	0
609	Ramon Ramirez	Mexico	0	6
610	Alberto Garcia Aspe	Mexico	0	0
611	Abdelhak Nouri	Morocco	0	0
612	Moustapha Hali	Morocco	0	5
613	Youssef Chippo	Morocco	0	0
614	Faizal George	Nigeria	2	2
615	Mattie Adeniji	Nigeria	0	3
616	Auneth Okocha	Nigeria	0	0
617	Sunday Osho	Nigeria	0	3
618	Kjetil Rekdal	Norway	0	3
619	Oyvind Leonhardsen	Norway	0	0
620	Jostein Flo	Norway	0	0
621	Ståle Solbakken	Norway	0	0
622	Wesley Riedel	Norway	0	0
623	John Færø Jakobsen	Norway	0	0
624	Roberto Acuna	Paraguay	0	0
625	Julio César Enciso	Paraguay	0	0
626	Gheorghe Hagi	Romania	0	4
627	Dorinel Munteanu	Romania	0	2
628	Wile Dumsescu	Romania	0	0
629	Constantin Galca	Romania	0	0
630	John Moshoe	South Africa	0	0
631	Heinrich Mkhalele	South Africa	0	0
632	Deochand Bhoo	South Africa	0	0
633	Fahd Alwan	Saudi Arabia	0	0
634	Khafid Al-Muwallid	Saudi Arabia	0	0
635	John Collins	Scotland	0	0
636	Billy McKay	Scotland	0	0
637	Graig Murray	Scotland	0	3
638	Scott Gemmill	Scotland	0	0
639	Paul Lambert	Scotland	0	0
640	Na Seok-Ju	South Korea	0	5
641	Yoo Sang-Chul	South Korea	0	3
642	Fernando Hierro	Spain	0	12
643	Luis Enrique Martinez	Spain	0	7
644	Guillermo Amor	Spain	0	0
645	Julen Guerrero	Spain	0	0
646	Zoubair Ben	Tunisia	0	0
647	Mohamed Ben Sghaier	Tunisia	0	0
648	Adel Sellami	Tunisia	0	0

Savill needled by his critics

Pitch not to blame as 23 wickets fall

DERBY (first day of four: Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex)

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

The pitch, damp underneath and more in the old three-day mode, allowed just enough movement to tantalise and defeat the unwary. Lack of application, shortcomings in technique and a poor selection of strokes were among the shortcomings shown by the batsmen. Iltis also swung the ball, as did DeFreitas in an unchanged 16-over spell later on, and Dean.

Any cosy notions Essex harboured about building a substantial lead were dispelled when they stumbled to 29 for five. Their collapse included the catch of the day, a stinging right-handed effort by Rollins in the gully to dismiss Grayson. Others perished in less honourable ways. Just as Rollins and Barnett, among others, had played loose strokes in Derbyshire's first innings, Robinson and Stuart Law were caught flicking inadvisably down the leg side.

Irani, the Essex top scorer, drove a catch to extra cover when he was out. He had been the better option, though he had the odd distinction of all in the circumstances when picking up a six over square leg off Dean.

Until Slater and Rollins shared an opening partnership of 30 in Derbyshire's second innings, the previous highest had been just 28 between Griffiths and Roberts for Derbyshire's eighth wicket the first time around.

The game calmed down after tea but Derbyshire still lost three wickets in negotiating their way to the safe haven of the close. After Slater's departure, Rollins was caught at the wicket off the ball that lifted and moved away. Three balls later, Cowan added the wicket of Twests, caught at second slip.

To add to the catalogue of batting struggle, all 15 catches offered were reserve wicket-keepers, Hyam, for Essex, and Griffiths, for Derbyshire, seizing their first-team opportunities impressively.

The game calmed down after tea but Derbyshire still lost three wickets in negotiating their way to the safe haven of the close. After Slater's departure, Rollins was caught at the wicket off the ball that lifted and moved away. Three balls later, Cowan added the wicket of Twests, caught at second slip.

To add to the catalogue of batting struggle, all 15 catches offered were reserve wicket-keepers, Hyam, for Essex, and Griffiths, for Derbyshire, seizing their first-team opportunities impressively.

Slater was leg-before to Iltis, who then added another notable wicket to his first-innings return of six for 20. After ten championship innings, Slater has still failed to aggregate 200 runs and has the unusual and unwanted record of being a specialist overseas batsman without a championship half-century by the beginning of July.

Iltis, at 27, is in his eleventh season with Essex and has benefited from a winter of energy conservation while working for a City firm. Cowan, his new-ball partner, having also been lightly employed by England on tour in West Indies, took three for 18 as Derbyshire tumbled to 29 for seven before a mini-revival, featuring Roberts, grinded them beyond 40, their lowest post-war score, against Glamorgan at Cardiff in 1946.

Iltis, at 27, is in his eleventh season with Essex and has benefited from a winter of energy conservation while working for a City firm. Cowan, his new-ball partner, having also been lightly employed by England on tour in West Indies, took three for 18 as Derbyshire tumbled to 29 for seven before a mini-revival, featuring Roberts, grinded them beyond 40, their lowest post-war score, against Glamorgan at Cardiff in 1946.

Iltis, at 27, is in his eleventh season with Essex and has benefited from a winter of energy conservation while working for a City firm. Cowan, his new-ball partner, having also been lightly employed by England on tour in West Indies, took three for 18 as Derbyshire tumbled to 29 for seven before a mini-revival, featuring Roberts, grinded them beyond 40, their lowest post-war score, against Glamorgan at Cardiff in 1946.

Iltis, at 27, is in his eleventh season with Essex and has benefited from a winter of energy conservation while working for a City firm. Cowan, his new-ball partner, having also been lightly employed by England on tour in West Indies, took three for 18 as Derbyshire tumbled to 29 for seven before a mini-revival, featuring Roberts, grinded them beyond 40, their lowest post-war score, against Glamorgan at Cardiff in 1946.

Iltis, at 27, is in his eleventh season with Essex and has benefited from a winter of energy conservation while working for a City firm. Cowan, his new-ball partner, having also been lightly employed by England on tour in West Indies, took three for 18 as Derbyshire tumbled to 29 for seven before a mini-revival, featuring Roberts, grinded them beyond 40, their lowest post-war score, against Glamorgan at Cardiff in 1946.



Singh, the Cambridge University captain, strikes an off-drive on his way to scoring 117 at Lord's yesterday

LORD'S (first day of three: Oxford won toss; Oxford University, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 265 runs behind Cambridge University)

BY JACK BAILEY

ANURAG SINGH may have his critics in terms of certain eccentricities displayed as captain, but there can be no doubting his abilities as a batsman. Yesterday, despite having been limited to only three previous first-class innings this season, he looked near the peak of his form in taking 117 off the Oxford attack.

His innings lasted 34 hours and formed the cornerstone of Cambridge's adequate response to being put in on a good wicket against a steady attack. Singh's chanceless innings included

Singh tunes up with stylish run

BY JACK BAILEY

15 fours and he stroked the ball around almost at will. Greg Loveridge, the New Zealander, may well quarrel with Singh's judgment of what constitutes a short single, especially when the ball has been hit directly to such a fine fielder as Fulton, the Oxford captain, but otherwise Singh could do little wrong.

His declaration left Oxford half an hour to negotiate. This was accomplished with due care and attention by Lockhart and Molins and Oxford,

who made a cameo 30, and it was heretofore Mathers' scatergun technique, in which line and length were unpredictable.

Mathers went on to take four wickets, but most impressively of the Oxford bowlers was Byron Byrne, the Australian, whose off spin nagged away at Cambridge and was largely instrumental in preventing Singh from entirely dominating. Byrne had also removed Hughes in full flow and, when House was caught at cover by Fulton, Oxford had limited Cambridge to 206 for four from 65 overs.

With Singh going so well, it was as much as they could have hoped for. By the time Singh was out, Cambridge were assured of a useful total, but no more than that.

Turner puts Sussex under the hammer

BY JOHN STERN

Sussex almost into a position of strength. Lathwell felt short of a century by driving Kirby straight to cover but his partner Turner did not. The tall wicket-keeper gloved one difficult chance to Humphries in his hundred, which took him 145 balls, before losing his off stump to Robinson.

Lewry threatened to wrap up the innings after the dissolution of the Turner-Lathwell stand by taking three wickets in seven balls. However, Treweek, thrashed a 58-ball half-century to lead Somerset to respectability. The Sussex opening batsmen survived the final hour unscathed.

James Kirby, 23, the promising Sussex seam bowler, was awarded his county cap before play and, as if to justify the accolade, took two of the first three wickets to fall, removing Harden's off stump and then bowling Holloway.

There was some movement early on but nothing too drastic. Lewry, though, had Parsons caught behind for one, leaving Somerset at 46 for four.

However, a positive riposte of 181 in 44 overs by Lathwell and Turner took

Sussex almost into a position of strength. Lathwell felt short of a century by driving Kirby straight to cover but his partner Turner did not. The tall wicket-keeper gloved one difficult chance to Humphries in his hundred, which took him 145 balls, before losing his off stump to Robinson.

Lewry threatened to wrap up the innings after the dissolution of the Turner-Lathwell stand by taking three wickets in seven balls. However, Treweek, thrashed a 58-ball half-century to lead Somerset to respectability. The Sussex opening batsmen survived the final hour unscathed.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Worcestershire won toss; Gloucestershire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Worcestershire

Lara shows signs of a return to fluent self

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

BY RUPERT COX

FOR THE RECORD

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 117 runs ahead of Essex

Derbyshire won toss; Derbyshire

Henman displays merciless streak

I think it is fair to say that if Tim Henman had been in David Beckham's position on Tuesday night, he would not have kicked his man. On the evidence of his performance yesterday, he would have pulled a knife and stabbed him to death.

For this was a savage performance. Henman took on Petr Korda and, in three brief sets, utterly destroyed him. No temperamental lashing out: this was a cold, careful assassination. I have watched Henman play many times; I have never seen him play three utterly merciless sets.

There was not an ounce of ruth about Henman yesterday. He goes into the semi-finals after a match of carefully thought-out, carefully acted-out tennis in which there was not a scruple of mercy. This from a man who is said to have a concentration problem.

Korda was supposed to be struggling with an ankle injury, and from the start it was clear that Korda was moving oddly. But the thing about Korda is that he always moves

oddly. He is a very odd fellow altogether, and he moves like a very well made clockwork toy. But he can play tennis all right, won the Australian Open this year and is the No 3 seed here at Wimbledon.

A very serious opponent, and a serious psychological barrier as well. Henman has never made the semi-finals in the first two years of Henmanmania, he was knocked out in the quarters. And both times he has been played off the court, losing in straight sets and not once, in either match, breaking service.

But he knew that Korda was carrying an injury, and it was clear that he was not moving to the ball with any fluency. Rhythm deserted him on his service. From the first game it was clear that Korda was beatable; the point is that Henman did not beat him. He hammered him.

It was a performance of stunning confidence, startling certainty. The famous Henman Centre Court victories are normally played in quite a different mood. Henman takes us to an emo-

SIMON BARNES



At Wimbledon

tional Disneyland, a Space Mountain of forehands and backhands, one of those rides on which pregnant women are not allowed and children must be accompanied by a responsible adult, a ride from which everyone emerges feeling sappy but distinctly Uncle Dick.

work up a strange symbiosis in which anxiety and excellence feed on each other's increase.

But not yesterday, that was the point. Yesterday was not an emotional occasion: not by the standards set by the standards of the Centre Court/Tim Henman combination. It was almost a cerebral match.

Henman hardly so much as clenched a fist: there was not even a trace of the little skip of self-delight.

Korda was not exactly limping, but if he were a horse — he looks a little like a horse, though not one you'd pay serious money for — he would not have passed the vet. Basically, he was down to ten men from the whistle and Henman was able to let his superior numbers prevail.

There was nothing at all unsporting about any of this: there was nothing remotely generous in it, either. That is sport for you. Courtesy is expected: generosity is not.

At Wimbledon, it has been the custom for years to talk about the Brits who were "too nice" to win. It is complete and abject nonsense. Henman can play the Nice Boy to perfection: he is courteous, sometimes even amusing. He doesn't go about boasting about the number of championships he is about to win; he doesn't spend time slugging his fellow players. Well, Greg Rusedski, maybe, but that is a relationship that would try anybody, no matter how nice.

But beneath his pleasant manners there is a man who can become crazed with ambition, and who on yesterday's performance is utterly without remorse.

"I was pretty clinical," he said afterwards. "I never let him back into it." He denied that he had built a strategy around the injury: "I'd be a fool to change my game-plan." He went on, with utter predict-

ability, about being "focused", but for once, that wretched bit of sports-babble is spot on. Henman's eyes not only focused: they did not for an instant blink.

He watched the footie on Tuesday night, of course he did, and said he was hugely disappointed in the end, and knew that everyone shared the disappointment. But there is no guile from Henman about determination to put a smile back on the face of the nation.

But all the same, he has done so, by going a round better than expected. He goes on to play Pete Sampras, which is a bit like being drawn against Brazil, though without the frilly bits. Though come to think of it, Sampras is more like one of great German sides. He makes even the flashiest passages of play look like an aspect of remorseless efficiency.

So what advice can we give Henman for the semi-final tomorrow? No 1, avoid a penalty shoot-out. No 2, hope for a Russian linesman. If Henman gets one of those, he's home and hosed.

Experience of old brigade too much for rising stars

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE teenagers are showing their age at last. With the exception of Martina Hingis, who has always acted a good 20 years older than the age on her passport, the young and the brave have been undone by the old and experienced as Wimbledon has progressed.

The semi-finals today will feature Nathalie Tauziat, 30, against Natasha Zvereva, 27, and Jana Novotna, 29, against Hingis, 17 going on 40.

The last of the new generation fell on Centre Court yesterday as Venus Williams, a self-proclaimed future champion, was taught a few lessons in playing on grass and holding your nerve when it matters by Novotna in what turned out to be an intriguing tussle. Williams may be the apple of the American public's eye but at the All England Club, her demeanour smacks of arrogance. Novotna, on the other hand, has lost tearfully and graciously in two finals and that sort of thing matters around these parts.

When it comes to the tennis in SW19, what matters is touch, imagination and a large helping of experience. Against the sheer power of Williams, it took Novotna a few games to find her way but once she had fathomed the Williams service — top speed 119mph: it was a slow day by the American's standards — and her weaknesses (yes, she can volley but only if she happens to be in the right place at the right time and, no, she does not like the ball played low to her ankles), the match was on.

Williams's early 4-1 lead was wiped out in the seventh game and then Novotna pulled ahead, breaking Williams for 6-5. It was done by the simplest of tactics — put the first volley behind the opponent and if she gets that one back, put the next one into open space. It is easy when you know how. With the first set gone 7-5, Williams began to twitch.

A doubtful line call at the

start of the second set had Williams furious. She stomped over the baseline judge to give her a piece of her mind and then yelled at the umpire, "You've got to call them." Novotna kept quiet and broke for a 1-0 lead while the American was left to sob into her towel at the change-over. Williams broke back and then let fly again, this time at the other end of the court. Novotna broke again. It was all becoming a little predictable. Williams managed to break back to level the scores but in the tie break she was allowed just two points and Novotna was through 7-6.

At least she will know what to expect in today's match, which is a repeat of the final of last year. Hingis dropped her first set of the tournament

and eventually outlasted Arantxa Sanchez Vicario — never an easy task — 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to confirm her place in the semi-finals. Sanchez Vicario must be getting paid by the set at these championships. In all but one of her matches she has played the full three sets after dropping the first one.

Yesterday she raced away to a 2-0 lead and then seemed stunned by the achievement as she allowed Hingis to take command. Not that the world No 1 was willing to take every chance she was given. Both women racked up the unforced errors and while Hingis gathered break points by the hat full, she let most of them slip as Sanchez Vicario dug in for a long scrap. But not even the most battle-hardened of competitors can overcome five weeks of physical and mental exertion and three weeks after winning the French Open, Sanchez Vicario succumbed to sheer fatigue.

It was much the same for Monica Seles as she took on Zvereva. Although she remembered to bring her racket and her tennis kit to the All England Club, she left her form and her game plan back at home. Against a wily doubles tactician, and a hugely



Novotna shows the determination that took her past Williams into the semi-finals

unfulfilled singles talent, Seles was stranded. Zvereva toyed with her opponent, pulling her into the net with drop shots and then passing her with pinpoint backhands. She lobbed, she volleyed and Seles went out 7-6, 6-2. What happened, she was asked? "I don't know," Seles replied. "Did you have trouble concentrating? I really don't know," she sighed.

Lindsay Davenport, of the United States, the No 2 seed, who has remained largely anonymous during the past few rounds, was finally uncovered by Tauziat 6-3, 6-3. Davenport has never found Wimbledon to be a happy hunting ground and yesterday was no exception. Tauziat is one of the few players happy to play on grass, but she had

devised a cunning plan for Davenport — stay back and beat the American at her own game and then go to the net and frighten her with the volley. It worked a treat but Tauziat, who is never short of self-belief, always knew that it would. Did she think she would triumph so easily? "Yes," was the simple answer. That's Tauziat for you.

Top seeds relax in sparkling show

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

IT IS not necessary to hold tickets for the show courts to see the world's top tennis players performing at Wimbledon. Ground passes allow access to seats on No 3 Court, and all were taken well before the appearance of Martina Hingis and Jana Novotna for their doubles match against the Japanese pair, Nana Miyagi and Naoko Kijimuta, the No 11 seeds, which they won 6-3, 6-4.

People who could not get a seat crammed into the aisles, stood on benches, craned their necks, and generally did whatever it took to catch a glimpse of the top seeds, who play each other in the semi-finals of the singles today, in a replay of the 1997 final.

After the tension of their difficult quarter-final matches in the singles, Hingis and Novotna were in the mood to relax and entertain in the doubles. No, let's be honest, they were in the mood to showboat and play shamelessly to the crowds. But why not? The punters loved it, although Miyagi and Kijimuta, who squandered a 4-1 second-set advantage, probably did not.

Whether the favourites will be on speaking terms after tomorrow remains to be seen. Novotna fell out with a previous doubles partner, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, over a line-call in a singles match in the 1996 US Open, and they barely spoke a civil word to each other for a year.

Sanchez Vicario, now in partnership with Helena Sukova, also progressed to the quarter-finals in straight sets. They are seeded to meet Novotna and Hingis in the semi-finals.

There were two doubles matches with British interest yesterday, with the accent on the past tense. Chris Wilkinson and Lorna Woodroffe had just one break of service against them in each set of their match against the Dutch combination of Paul Haarhuis and Caroline Vis, before going out 6-4, 6-4. It was not unexpected, as their opponents are the No 2 seeds.

More surprising was the departure of Neil Broad, the Great Britain Davis Cup player who partnered Tim Henman to a silver medal in the Olympic Games at Atlanta in 1996.

Seeded No 14 in tandem with his regular partner, Piet Norval, South Africa's most went out in straight sets to the unseeded American combination of Justin Gimelstob and Brian MacPhie, 6-3, 7-6.

Title talk no longer double Dutch to Ivanisevic

By NICK SZCZEPANIK



Ivanisevic having fun

THE man who came from nowhere to win Wimbledon will play the man who has been everywhere and won nothing when Richard Krajicek, the 1996 champion, faces Goran Ivanisevic in the men's singles semi-finals tomorrow.

Both won their quarter-finals in straight sets yesterday, but whereas Krajicek came through without difficulty against David Sanguinetti, of Italy, Ivanisevic needed three tie-breaks to overcome Jan Siemerink, the Dutchman.

Krajicek, showing few signs of the knee injury that had required treatment overnight, found the unheralded Sanguinetti little threat to his own service, although the Italian managed to pass the former champion on more than one occasion. However, he only held his own service once in the first set.

Sanguinetti did better in the second, holding three times, and even got to deuce on Krajicek's service, but two aces put him firmly

in his place. Krajicek's service was altogether a far more fearsome proposition, so a 6-4 score in the third set represented progress, but it was Krajicek who went through.

"It looks pretty good, semi-finals," Krajicek said. "There was less pressure for me two years ago, and the only thing I have as an advantage is I know I can win here."

"I haven't shown unbelievable, spectacular tennis, like the way I beat Stich and Sampras two years ago, but I think solid performance is the way to go for me at the moment and we'll see what happens."

There was more chance of an upset — or at least someone getting upset — on Court No 2, where Ivanisevic, seeded No 16, was taking on Krajicek's compatriot, Siemerink. The Croat's service was reliable but his returns unpredictable: a lazy hack, a perfectly judged

lob, a wild swipe, a superb pass — pick any one from a long list. Those four, by the way, all came in one game, the last before the first-set tie-break, which was pure Ivanisevic. Leading 3-0, he had to survive four set points, twice sent down pairs of aces and eventually won on a double-fault by Siemerink.

In the second set, Ivanisevic dropped his service and found himself 5-2 down before breaking back and taking the tie-break, and he repeated the whole thing in the third, this time falling behind 5-4, surviving a further set point, then producing two superlative backhands, one to either side, to restore the break.

It went to another tie-break, but then those who follow Ivanisevic probably prefer it that way — there is more drama. If there was any sense of let-down, it was that Ivanisevic only needed one match point to advance to a meeting with Krajicek,

whom he has beaten in the last eight of their ten encounters.

In a final touch of theatre, he threw his shirt into the crowd before departing bare-chested into the throng, while post-match thoughts ranged over his facial appearance and the possibility of Croatia being drunk for a year if Ivanisevic wins Wimbledon and the football team wins the World Cup. But more conventional matters also came up.

"It was very tough and mentally I surprised myself today," Ivanisevic said. "I was very good. It's my eleventh Wimbledon and it's most fun this year. I'm winning, it's been great so far and I don't know how it's going to finish, but maybe this is the year for me."

Krajicek admitted that he had considered the possibility. He said: "Goran, I said before the tournament is going to be dangerous because this is the first time that nobody expects anything, including himself."

Photo

quality

power

any

negatives

With its unique Plain Paper Optimised Printing™ technology, the Canon BJC 7000 Colour Bubble Jet Printer produces superb results on plain paper and specialist media. Freephone 0500 987 000 or visit us at www.canon.co.uk £269 RRP (ex VAT) correct at time of going to press.

Canon

هكذا من الأصل

WORLD CUP 98

England's class of '98: the end of term report

Michael Owen was the outstanding individual of the World Cup, yet others struggled to justify reputations. Oliver Holt makes his final judgment

RATING: A+

MICHAEL OWEN: Appearances: 4 (2 as substitute). Goals: 2. The star of the show. His performances in this World Cup and particularly his brilliant individual goal against Argentina have established him as an international superstar at the age of 18. Once he had displaced Teddy Sheringham in the starting line-up, he was unstoppable. Terrified some of the world's best defenders.

RATING: A

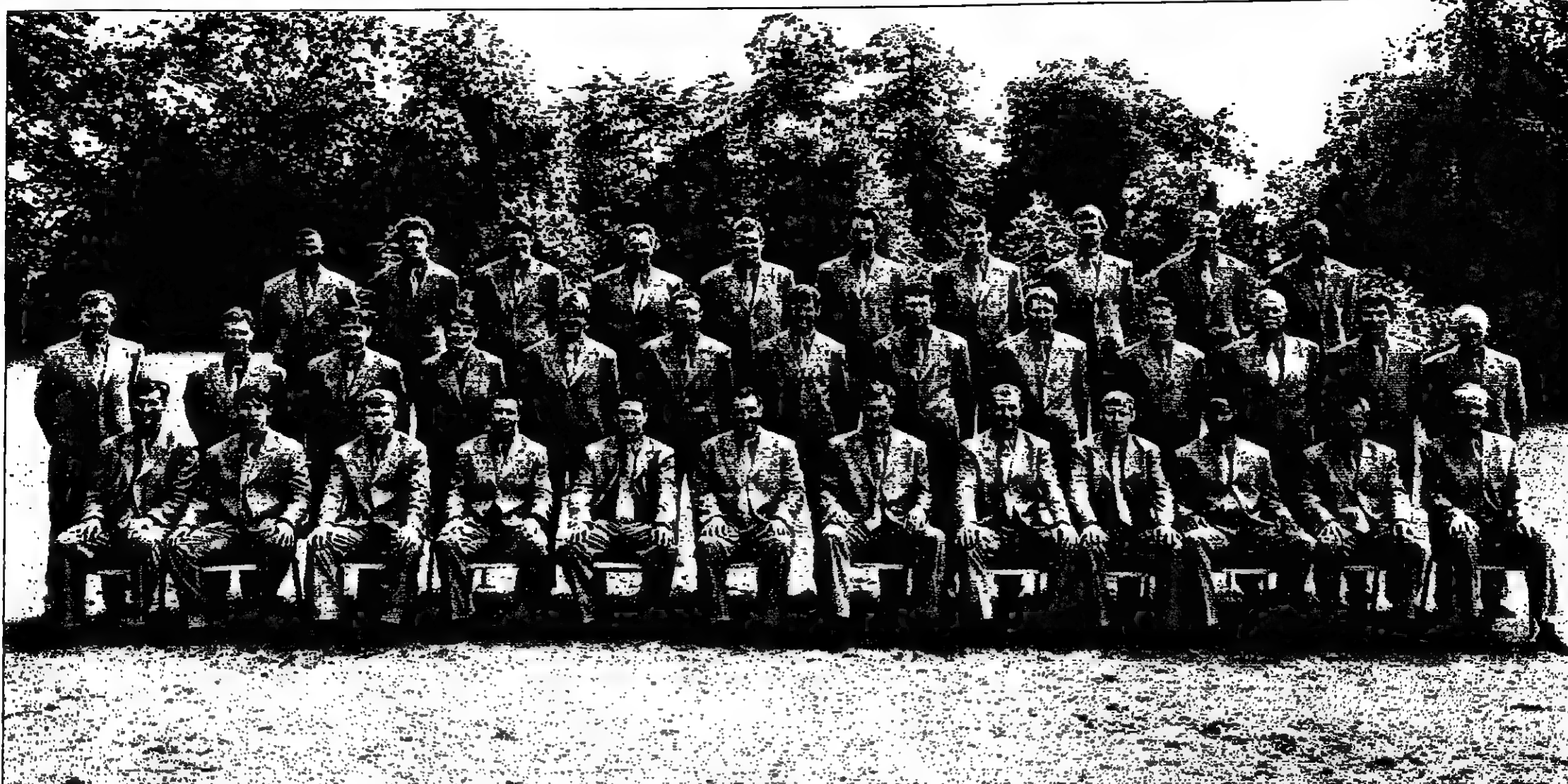
SOL CAMPBELL: Appearances: 4. Exceeded all expectations. He was solid and reliable personified but also added a new dimension to his game, with his surging runs out of defence. Executed several superb last-ditch tackles and threatened to score what would have been the goal of the tournament against Colombia with a charge from one end of the pitch to the other.

PAUL INCE: Appearances: 4. At his tenacious best throughout. Ince was the best of an inspired bunch against Argentina. At times, he looked as if he could run through any tackle, break any challenge. He ran tirelessly, tackled like a titan and broke forward dangerously from midfield. His discipline, which had been a worry, was excellent.

RATING: A-

ALAN SHEARER: Appearances: 4. Goals: 2 (1 pen). Never looked like challenging for the Golden Boot, but still had a fine World Cup. Role changed when Owen started alongside him and he proved that he could be provider and goalscorer. Worked hard and unselfishly and did enough to suggest he is still a big threat.

TONY ADAMS: Appearances: 4. Began shakily, but admitted that he was "growing" with the tournament and by the time Argentina came along he was back to his very best. Titanic performance in St-Etienne, where he was first to every ball to help to keep Argentina at bay.



Back row, from left: Les Ferdinand, Steve McManaman, Darren Anderton, Ray Clemence (goalkeeping coach), Tim Flowers, David Seaman, Nigel Martyn, Tony Adams, Rio Ferdinand, Sol Campbell. Middle row: Gary Lewin (physiotherapist), Steve Slattery (masseur), Terry Byrne (masseur), Michelle Farrer (team administrator), David Beckham, Gareth Southgate, Teddy Sheringham, Martin Keown, Paul Merson, Rob Lee, John Crane (team doctor), Tim Sonnen (team doctor), Alan Smith (assistant physiotherapist). Front row: Glenn Roeder (assistant coach), Gary Neville, Paul Scholes, Graeme Le Saux, Michael Owen, John Gorman (assistant coach), Glenn Hoddle (coach), Alan Shearer, David Batty, Paul Ince, Peter Taylor (assistant coach), David Davies (press officer).

RATING: B+

DARREN ANDERTON: Appearances: 4. Goals: 1. Hoddle caused controversy by preferring him to David Beckham in the first two group games, but Anderton repaid his faith with a series of increasingly assured performances at right wing back and the crucial opening goal against Colombia.

but stood shoulder to shoulder with Adams and Campbell against Argentina.

GARETH SOUTHGATE: Appearances: 2 (1 as substitute). Unlucky to pick up an ankle injury after playing well in the first match against Tunisia. Unable to win his place back from Neville, he did not let anybody down when he was brought on for Le Saux against Argentina.

RATING: B

PAUL SCHOLES: Appearances: 4. Goals: 1. He began as though he was going to be one of the stars of the tournament, playing the leading role in the victory over Tunisia. But he faded and was about the only player who failed to rise to the occasion against Argentina. Can still be proud of his overall contribution.

GARY NEVILLE: Appearances: 3. Left out of the opening game but seized his chance when Gareth Southgate was injured and performed as creditably and solidly as ever in the other three matches. Felt his way into the match with Romania.

DAVID BATTY: Appearances: 3 (1 as substitute). Will always be remembered for missing the penalty that put England out of France 98 and becoming the successor to Gareth Southgate and Stuart Pearce. Even though he lost his place to Beckham in the last two games, Batty performed with distinction in his holding role, and particularly in the rearguard action against Argentina, and can hold his head up high.



GLENN HODDLE: Like Bobby Robson before him, the England coach fumbled towards his best line-up. His refusal to play Owen from the start of the game against Romania may have cost England the chance of winning group G and his handling of Beckham's omission was clumsy and unsure. He deserves credit for having the courage to change and to pick Owen and Beckham from the start in the final two matches and finished by presiding over a team that looked like world-beaters. Rating: B

RATING: B-

DAVID SEAMAN: Appearances: 4. Showed uncharacteristic signs of weakness and uncertainty in this World Cup that suggest he has started to believe his own publicity. Conceded needless penalty in the opening minutes against Argentina and, while not embarrassing himself, generally failed to command the defence with his usual aplomb.

NIGEL MARTYN: Appearances: 0. Seaman did not quite play poorly enough to give Martyn his chance, but his time may come.

TIM FLOWERS: Appearances: 0. Likely to join Seaman and Martyn in the fight for the No 1 spot, but his role in La Bouteille was confined to being a good trainer.

OTHER PLAYERS

RIO FERDINAND: Appearances: 0. Unlucky not to be given a chance but is set to be a mainstay of the forthcoming European championship campaign.

LES FERDINAND: Appearances: 0. His only serious mention during the tournament came when there was news that he had picked up a

minor hamstring strain. Typical, really.

MARTIN KEOWN: Appearances: 0. Another who was unfortunate not to play, he was a victim of Neville's consistency and Hoddle's reluctance to man-mark any opponent. Might have helped to nullify Hagi against Romania.

RATING: C

TEDDY SHERINGHAM: Appearances: 2. Performed well enough in the opening game against Tunisia with some typically intuitive touches, but was ineffective against Romania. Engulfed by the tidal wave that was Owen, this tournament may have marked the end of his international career.

GRAEME LE SAUX: Appearances: 4. Not one of his finest hours. Le Saux attacked well enough and provided plenty of ammunition from

the left, but he was found sadly wanting for the Dan Petrescu goal that won the match for Romania in injury time. Recovered well from that but the memory will stain the tournament for him.

DAVID BECKHAM: Appearances: 3 (1 as substitute). Goals: 1. Some might suggest Beckham deserves grade F after his moment of stupidity effectively cost England the chance of beating Argentina. But he showed signs in this tournament of maturing into a

truly world-class central midfielder. His free-kick goal against Colombia was sublime, his pass to Owen for the second goal against Argentina an aesthetic delight. He still has a bright future if his lack of self-discipline does not blight his career.

STEVE MCNAMAMAN: Appearances: 1 (as substitute). Only given a brief chance to show what he could do in the second half against Colombia. Still waiting to come of age as an international. Frustrating

tournament for him as he watched his club colleague, Owen, reach for the skies.

PAUL MERSON: Appearances: 1 (as substitute). Only did one thing right in this tournament and that was score his penalty in the shoot-out against Argentina. Looked woefully short of match practice when he was brought on for his only appearance against the South Americans and wasted several precious set-piece opportunities with poor delivery.



Forget heroic failures, we have to change our spots

I was nervous when David Batty went up to take his penalty kick on Tuesday night. It wasn't because I thought he would miss. In fact, it was the opposite. I was expecting that he would score and I knew that I was next. I'd been told that I was the sixth penalty-taker.

About five minutes from the end of extra time, I had started getting a bit nervous. I was looking round the pitch and thinking: "I cannot see any natural penalty-takers out here." Apart from Alan Shearer, Michael Owen and Paul Merson. I didn't see anybody in the team that would even be a substitute penalty-taker for their club.

At the end of the game, I was told I would be the sixth, and by the time Batts went up to take his, I was definitely starting to feel the tension. I don't usually get any nerves after a game has begun, but this was different. When the Argentinian had scored from their fifth penalty and Batts started walking up, I was thinking: "Right, I'm next on here."

I was saying to myself that I had to get my head right, that I had to clear my mind of everything. There was no relief when the goalkeeper saved his kick, just crushing disappointment. Of course, I wish dearly that I had had the opportunity to have a go, because that would have meant we were still in with a chance, but it was not to be.

It was harder to bear because, as the second half had worn on and we had taken it into extra time, we were all buzzing. The atmosphere was fantastic and we knew we were all in it together.

GARY NEVILLE



er, all fighting for each other and restricting the Argentinians so much that I can't remember them creating a single clear-cut chance when we were down to ten men.

I could see on their faces that they weren't happy, that they felt they should be beating a ten-man side, and I was so confident that we were going to win. We all had a feeling of "right, let's show them" after Becks had been sent off and it was hard for them to play against us because we were so determined. It had got to the stage where I felt we had to be rewarded for the way we had defended and the way we had refused to be battered by what was obviously a very good side.

It was difficult to come back the way we did from being a goal down, because usually when that happens a team like Argentina will hold on to

that lead for some time. But Michael Owen was absolutely phenomenal.

When I think of what I was doing at 18, playing in the youth team at Manchester United, and look at where he is, I can hardly believe it. He's frightening.

But then, in the end, it didn't happen for us. I have experienced failures like that two or three times now with England and I don't go down the line that they are heroic failures.

It is about time we damn well won a match like that. It is about time we damn well did it rather than falling at a hurdle like that. I look at the United team and I know that that team is as good as teams like Juventus and Real Madrid, and in this World Cup I look at teams like Holland and Germany and I know England are as good as them. The Germans are in the quarter-finals

now and they will probably make the semis, but I look at their team and I think: "Surely we would beat them." But we do not seem to be able to do it in the big competitions.

We have got to stop using inexperience as an excuse because although some of us have had relatively short careers, we have packed a lot into them. I don't know what it is, why we fall short. We just need to find that something that is missing, that one piece of luck, that one referee's decision that goes for us and not against us, and perhaps then that will push us the extra mile.

I know some people are trying to point the finger at Becks for us going out, but I think that is unfair. There was no resentment from anyone in the team against him. There is not one of us who has not made a bad pass or missed a penalty or made some sort of error in a match. I did a two-footed tackle in extra time when a bit of frustration had started to creep in, but I was not punished. Becks was, but he has got the strength and the ability to come back from it.

It would be easy to dwell on what might have been, but I stopped doing that a long time ago. I had my disappointments in this World Cup when my brother, Phil, and Nicky Butt were left out of the first game, but all in all I thoroughly enjoyed it. You just have to move on to the next challenge straight away. I'm going to have a quick holiday and then start thinking about Manchester United and the European championship qualifying games.

TOMORROW	
ITALY FRANCE	3.30pm, Stade de France, ITV, RSL/Talk
SATURDAY	
HOLLAND ARGENTINA	3.30pm, Marseilles, BBC1, RSL/Talk
GERMANY CROATIA	8pm, Lyons, BBC1, RSL/Talk

Henry fear on eve of Italy match

FRANCE may have to do without their leading marksman, Thierry Henry, when they face Italy in the first quarter-final of this World Cup in the Stade de France tomorrow afternoon.

Henry, who has scored three goals in the tournament, is nursing a sprained left ankle, an injury sustained in the second-round victory over Paraguay on Sunday. "If I can, I will play," Henry said yesterday. "If not, we are not going to take any risks."

Aimé Jacquet, the French coach, however, will be able to count on the return of Zinedine Zidane, who has served a two-match suspension for kicking an opponent against Saudi Arabia.

Emmanuel Petit, who left the Paraguay game with a pain in his right hamstring, is recovering well and should be ready to play alongside Didier Deschamps in midfield.

In the second quarter-final, between Brazil and Denmark in Nantes tomorrow evening, Claudio Taffarel, of Brazil, will set a World Cup record for a goalkeeper. It will be his sixteenth appearance in the finals, beating the previous mark set by his compatriots, Gilmar and Emerson Leão.

WORLD CUP 98

Ultimate passion play with the same old sad ending



Anderton: repaid faith

In 40 years of watching 11 World Cups, I have seldom been so consumed by the emotions of a game as I was when England held out so gallantly against Argentina, only to fail in the end on their habitual anti-max, penalties. It was, for anyone committed to the English cause, a match of vertiginous emotions: deep despair, sudden hope, surging pride and, at the very last, despair again.

Despair, initially, when Seaman conceded a penalty, which was converted. High hope when Owen got England their penalty so quickly afterwards and Shearer drove it in. Joy when Owen set off on that amazing run to finish with that thundering shot. Fresh despair when the defence, untypically, naively, gave a second goal away, just when it seemed that England would go in leading at half-time.

Down to still greater depths of gloom and pessimism when David Beckham, so gratuitously, kicked out at Simeone and, as England players tried to plead Beckham's case, the referee pulled out his red card.

Then gathering pride, tinged with astonishment, as the England defence, a Horatius on the bridge, held out against the odds, surely one of the finest rearguard actions in the long history of the England team.

Alternating and conflicting feelings. Could England possibly hold out until full time? And when they did, could they possibly avoid conceding the so-called golden goal? Then, once penalties were due, would it be Turn 1990 and Euro 96 again? One more seemingly unending hiatus when David Batty — why Batty, why Batty? — came up to take that final penalty. Hope gone, despair now par-

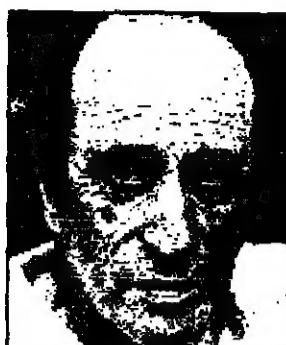
amount as his shot was saved. England were out.

And what can we say of Glenn Hoddle? The England coach can plead ill-fortune after his team's gallant and unlucky exit from this World Cup. Yet the jury must still be out over the question of his merits as an international manager. Alas, he cannot even claim the great gift of one of his predecessors, Bobby Robson: he has not been lucky.

Wrong about Owen, right about Anderton, right, alas, about the puerile and petulant Beckham. It is not, however, Beckham's liaison with *Relatively Posh Spice* that should concern anybody, but the childish reactions that cost him his expulsion against Argentina and, surely, lost England a game that they would have won.

England's performance over the 70-odd minutes that followed Beckham's departure was remarkable. Faced by one of the most talented, attacking teams in the tournament, England not only subdued the Argentina attack, but contrived opportunities to win the game themselves.

BRIAN GLANVILLE



on a performance that moved him like no other

But if Hoddle, in the event, had little luck, how much did he really deserve? A strong case can be made to blame him for the defeat against Romania, who, significantly, after their one impressive game against England, laid down and died against Croatia.

The Owen nightmare will surely return to haunt Hoddle. Somewhere or other, there seems to be a hidden agenda, a deep perversity, a self-destructive obstinacy in the England coach. By comparison with one or two of Owen's young Liverpool team-mates, this marvellously gifted, precocious player, much the finest of his generation, has been a model of restraint — even if he did once get sent off in a minor international.

Yet Hoddle stared the gift horse in the mouth, publicly criticising Owen a few months ago for his alleged

comportment on and off the field, declaring that the boy still had much to learn and that he was not even a natural goalscorer.

A less balanced youngster than Owen might have been demoralised by such gratuitous criticism, but Owen allowed it, as the mythical Indian once said, to "flow off his back like duck's water".

His goal on Tuesday night was still more remarkable, coming as it did against a defence that had previously gone eight games without giving away a goal at all. Two formidable defenders were left for dead. There is no defence for Hoddle to have sent Owen off the field for so long against Romania.

And Anderton? Yes, most of us were deplored the way that he would not go past his man, unlike the effervescent winger he was before his many injuries, but Hoddle persevered and Anderton

duly returned to form as his physical condition improved.

Yet there is this maddening obduracy about Hoddle; and for a player who, himself, suffered cross discrimination at times during a generally dazzling career, he can be strangely insensitive in his treatment of the maverick star, Paul Gascoigne, especially.

Could England, had fortune not turned its back on them, actually have won this World Cup? I strongly doubt it, although the display against Argentina showed how much potential there is in the team.

Brazil, however, still seem to have the biggest guns and must remain the favourites to win the tournament. Meanwhile, one takes little comfort in the saddest words that ever were, "it might have been". And Hoddle will no doubt carry on as a coach, flawed and unfortunate.

Rob Hughes says that a young Englishman has emulated Pelé



Owen bursts between Vivas, right, and Ayala, who struggled to contain him in the first half, as he makes tracks towards the Argentina goal. Photograph: Patrick Kovarik

It should surprise no one that England's homecoming from the World Cup became an advertising feature for Concorde, and certainly two Argentina defenders, Roberto Ayala and José Chamot, will not have been at all surprised that Michael Owen, who gave them such a chasing, was travelling close to the speed of sound.

Owen, indeed, is this morning a world name. In France, they are calling him the petit Ronaldo, the phenomenon, the teenager who promises a brighter future for England. So let us do something that Argentina's defence could not manage, get to grips with Owen, one of the nucleus of young players — with Sol Campbell, Gary Neville and Paul Scholes and if he can only discipline his petulance, David Beckham — who gave notice on French soil that the old country can become an international force again.

If you question that, think back to Tuesday night in St-Etienne, to the sight of fear in the eyes of Argentinian defenders as Owen bore down on them. Among the best tributes to Owen's searing pace and marvellous goal was one from the Finnish commentator, Frank Sjöman, who,

Owen on supersonic flight path to fame

asked, only half-mockingly, whether the tape had been speeded up.

It was not only the nerve and astonishing fleetness of the Liverpool teenager that caught the eye. When he persuaded Kim Milton Nielsen, a good referee from Denmark made into a bad one by the pressures imposed by the Fifa overlords, to give him a penalty, Owen demonstrated the artfulness of a Latin rather than an English footballer.

He knew that Nielsen had already given a debatable penalty to Argentina and seemed to gamble that the referee might want to even things up. When Ayala tried to get out of the way, Owen appeared deliberately to lean into him and fall theatrically.

There is a price for such cunning. The moneyed clubs of Europe, every one of whom can do with such a rising star, will be knocking on the door of his agent or his father by the

weekend. Make no mistake, Owen, just 18, has made an impact on this World Cup as memorable as Pelé's 40 years ago. Owen would not remember Pelé, but the Brazilian is already among the Owen fan club. Pelé has no doubts that Owen's speed, the ability to concentrate and the ability to spot vulnerability among defenders and goalkeepers, will make his fortune.

Juventus, AC Milan and Internazionale in Italy, perhaps, Barcelona and Real Madrid in Spain, could afford him, and cannot afford to let opponents have such a potent, and so young, a weapon. Moreover, if a club president in Seville can pay a world-record £22 million for the Brazilian, Denilson, who is being castly used as a substitute in this World Cup, what price the Liverpool whippet?

Be careful. He is little more than a

schoolboy on a fantastic adventure. Norman Whiteside, was 17 when he played in the 1982 World Cup in Spain. Injury finished him within the decade.

Owen should be left at home to mature under the careful, knowing eye of his father, Terry, who was also 17 when he made his debut for Everton, but whose career was played out in much lower leagues. Owen appears level-headed yet, like Beckham there are, indiscreet edges. He has twice been sent off, for butting during an Under-21 international and for a kick on Ronny Johnsen at Old Trafford.

That will not stop the parasitical agents attempting to dislodge him from Anfield. But the fast-moving adventures of Ronaldo should serve as a warning. They moved him from Brazil when he was 16, through PSV Eindhoven at 17, to Barcelona at 18,

and now to Internazionale. Ronaldo is not yet tired but he is much bigger and stronger than Owen, who has never moved from the family home near Chester. He has the same agent, Tony Stephens, as Alan Shearer and David Platt. For Shearer, the home fires on Tyneside seem sufficient: Platt succumbed to the lure of the lira but came to no harm.

And for Owen? The world is at his door, or heading in that direction. He is a part of the modern phenomenon where the sons of former players have carrying capacities beyond their parents' belief.

For Denmark, facing Brazil tomorrow, there are the Laudrup brothers, Michael and Brian, the sons of a former international, Finn Laudrup. For Argentina, there is Juan Sebastian Veron, whose father was a famous player 30 years ago. And for Italy, of course, there are the Maldinis, the father, Cesare, coaching his country, the son, Paolo, captaining it.

Scientists have never unravelled the nature-nurture question, whether talent is inherited or can be instilled. But Bill Sharkey, the sage of Anfield, had no doubts. "Coaches don't make great players, mothers and fathers do," he said.

Close-ups give referee benefit of any doubts

David Elleray says the Danish official in charge of the England game got it spot on

The reaction to the appointment of Kim Milton Nielsen, of Denmark, to the potentially explosive England-Argentina game was positive and widely heralded as sensible. He is a referee with an imposing physical stature who is well-regarded throughout the world. The match, with an absence of brutal play and, largely, gamesmanship, was unlike past England-Argentina matches and this was in part due to Milton Nielsen's accurate decision-making, calmness and imposing presence.

Although everybody has tried to blame him for the defeat of England, the accuracy of his decision-making could not be faulted. It was an exceptional performance. When normal frames threw some of his decisions into doubt, close-up replays showed that he was right — for example, Campbell's disallowed goal. Most pundits tended to agree: Terry Venables and Bobby Robson hardly disagreed with anything he did.

Possibly his only important mistake came after he had ruled out Campbell's goal. He

The sending-off of Beckham did not surprise me. We have seen, with the dismissals of Kluyvert and Zidane, that a player who is fouled and then reacts against the opponent with his arms or feet — to kick, strike or elbow — has received a red card. The free kick had been given, Beckham was lying on the floor and then he suddenly kicked out.

It was a moment of madness. He thought about it. Simeone was still standing there and it was a sneaky kick. Milton Nielsen had no option and Beckham's reaction was clear: he went straight off, he didn't protest. His team-mates didn't protest, either.

Campbell's goal was disallowed for a foul on Roa, the goalkeeper, by Shearer. If you challenge a goalkeeper with your arms up to impede him, you are likely to be penalised. It was quite clear that Shearer's elbow made contact with the side of Roa's head and the referee did very well to see it. If it had happened to Seaman, and the goal had been allowed, England would have complained that the referee didn't spot the foul.

The two handball incidents involved Adams and Chamot.



'He had no option over Beckham — there were no protests'

The ball did strike Adams' hand in the area, during the first half, but he was trying to get it out of the way and it was a clear case of ball to hand. Although Argentina wanted a penalty, their appeal was correctly turned down. In Chamot's case, his hands were in the air, not down by his side, and you could argue, not unlike with Adams, that that always poses the risk of a penalty. But it was clearly unintentional. Again, Milton Nielsen was right.

There was a reception for all the referees last night and a number of them will now leave the tournament. Milton Nielsen is one of them, probably because of Denmark's participation in the quarter-finals, and Paul Durkin, my colleague in the FA Carling Premiership, is unfortunately among them, too, suggesting that his performance in the Italy-Austria game did not put him in the top group. Sadly, both the England team and England's referee will be coming home.

Referee, by David Elleray, is published by Bloomsbury (£16.99) in August. To reserve your copy call Ewel on Cash Sales on 01933 672400.

Our tragic hero needs sympathy rather than blame

Marseilles

I was pretty pointless trying to sleep after the St-Etienne match. At the stadium, people were saying "I don't believe it", in exactly the way you say it when somebody dies. I was stunned, that's all. And slightly in denial.

When a match contains so much potential for different happy outcomes, you only half-accept the miserable one that's finally real. I mean, what if Beckham hadn't seen red, in both senses? What if the second-half "goal" hadn't been disallowed?

And what if Ince had scored his penalty, when Seaman had opened the door to victory with his manly save? What if, instead of England, Argentina were a place of sorrow today, with people hiding inconsolably in cupboards?

England going out to Argentina would have been a lot easier to bear had they not played so well. As it was, however, they beat Argentina in every department except

scoreline. There was a crispness to their football, fitness training and a breath of French air had somehow cleared their collective mind.

Friday's match at Lens against Colombia had seen their self-confidence rise Tuesday's at St-Etienne saw it majestically plateau. They seemed to be working to an agreed plan, while Argentina evidently relied for success on swarthy good looks and sulky expressions. Not only did England not deserve to lose, Argentina did not deserve to win.

Some months ago, I wrote a fantastical prediction of England's World Cup in which Gazza messed up by getting himself (and several others) sent off. My idea was that, having shattered England's chances, he miraculously did not become a public pariah. Instead, a clever PR man put him on television to express his remorse.

"Thirty years of hurt," he sobbed, "never stopped me dreaming." At which point anger at his stupidity flipped

to warm, glowy forgiveness. Having done nothing whatever to expiate his sin against football, within a year Gazza was fronting charities and replacing Rolf Harris on *Animal Hospital*. Let's hope David Beckham's agent is on the blower to Martin Bashir right now.

Personally, I want to stop feeling uncomfortable about him. I want to stop entertaining the idea of blame. By all rational viewpoints, true enough, Beckham's red card prevented England from winning. But when you think how he must be feeling about it, and when you think how we all bayed for his inclusion and cheered for his fabulous goal,



Truss's Grand Voyage

course, worse than missing a goal, or a penalty. He just blew it, during the most important game played by England for eight years. At least if you make a footballing mistake, your team-mates make that universal gesture of manly sympathy, a rough push on the back of the neck, which is meant to signify "know how you feel, mate", together with "but let's not go on about it".

But after the match on Tuesday, apparently, nobody spoke to Beckham because he couldn't speak. Isn't that terrible? I despair of men. Meanwhile, fans load their disappointment on his lean, bony frame, despite the fact that it doesn't make them feel better about anything. What all this makes you realise is that disgrace is the flipside of greatness. You can only let people down if they think you're marvellous. This Beckham incident would make Aristotle dance about in his sandals, it so well illustrates the classical precepts of tragedy. The hero with his

flaw, the audience torn between awe and pity, as the appalled hero asks "what have I done?"

The fact that it's his own fault makes Beckham's position perfectly tragic, in fact. The only difference is that he hasn't killed anybody or slept with his Mum. He merely kicked someone on the ankle and revealed himself momentarily as a brat.

The approach to this that won't wash is it's only a game. The Adidas ad about "people who love football enough to do something about it" includes three red-carded players, but this hardly invalidates the sentiment.

Zidane, Kluyvert, Beckham — they do love the game. They love it totally, the way we demand them to. All Beckham needed to do was to say he's sorry, which he has done, to take the wind out of their sails. So now just watch out, Rolf Harris. That job with the kiddies in splints may not be as secure as you think.

LYNNE TRUSS

Durkin ordered off

PAUL DURKIN, the Dorset referee, and Kim Milton Nielsen, the Dane who was in charge of England's defeat against Argentina on Tuesday, are among the 24 officials who will take no further part in the World Cup.

Hugh Dallas, of Scotland, is one of ten referees to have been retained. He will take charge of the quarter-final

between Italy and France at the Stade de France tomorrow. Mark Warren, of England, is one of his assistants.

QUARTER-FINAL APPOINTMENTS: Italy v France, Referee: H Dallas (Scott). Assistants: M Warren (Eng), M Garganucci (Rom). Brazil v Denmark, Referee: G Gendreau (Egypt). Assistants: M Warren (Turk), D Davis (Wales), Germany v Croatia, Referee: R Porter (Wales). Assistants: M Nelson (Gwen), M van den Broek (Bel). Holland v Argentina, Referee: A Briza Curni (Mex). Assistants: O Powell (Jama), E Sainas Rostan (Honduras).

WORLD CUP 98



England fans show their commitment and support on Tuesday, demonstrating stamina that would have left a marathon runner gasping

Spectating is no sport for the unfit. At best it leaves you shattered, at worst it could kill you. These days, with mass marathons and aerobics for all, even the weakest among us can play at being an athlete. But as the relentless struggle in St-Etienne demon-

strated, only the strongest can hope to survive as a spectator. The performance of the hard-core spectators — the England squad in the stands — before, during and after the match against Argentina on Tuesday, demonstrated capacities for hardness and endurance that might leave many a marathon runner gasping for breath.

It suggests that spectating could well be classified as a sport in its own right. The 28 million who followed the game on television at home will have been aware that the spectators sang, cheered and groaned at every touch, twist and tackle in the struggle for two hours and more — a remarkable feat in itself.

But many of them did this after hours spent making their way on foot to the ground in baking sunshine. Others had been cooped up in coaches or, worst of all, had passed their hours of extra

Standing up to test of spectator sport

time in stationary planes or airport lounges, dehydrating victims of the charter flight delay syndrome.

Spectating is a tough event. First there is the build-up, with the chanting and adrenalin surge that starts well before the whistle. There is the game itself, which in the stands on Tuesday was like having your emotions beaten up. Finally, if you are unlucky, as England were on Tuesday, there is the cruel climax of the "golden goal" and death by penalties.

No wonder an ox of a man close to me was clawing at his hair, crying: "I don't think I can take any more of this." Another muttered: "I hope there aren't too many here who are cardio-vascularly challenged." It was clear that watching the game from the stands was no place for the weak-hearted.

When the health-threatening penalty shoot-out ended,



the night of endurance was far from over for the spectators. Still stunned and drained by defeat, many set off on a two-mile shuffle, heading for the railway station. There they were herded into writhing queues for tickets to play fantasy railway connections through the night.

Some trains, crammed like cattle trucks, seemed to be going nowhere very slowly. "I don't know about the TGV," growled one face-painted supporter, "this is more like a JCB."

The Argentina supporters,

of course, lingered to party way into the night. They danced and swayed rhythmically and athletically to the happy hypnotic beat of their triumphant music. For the spectating sportsman, there is no stimulant like victory.

Normally, after any kind of sporting effort in which your lungs have been tested to the full, your energy has been sapped and your emotions shredded. What you need is a hot bath, a meal and a comfortable bed. But such joys were not easy to come by for our boys from the stands.

In the couple of days before the game, you could get a ticket for the match in St-Etienne — if you were prepared to pay more than £200 — but you could not get a hotel bed. So some trudged off to distant camp sites, while others simply slept where they fell.

Looked at as a sporting performance, the stamina of

the England supporters on Tuesday night was unbelievable. Many were living primitively in conditions of stifling heat and subsisting on an alcohol-loaded diet that would have sports nutritionists going berserk.

Yet they kept up a huge output of energy over many hours and dispensed much of the damage caused by the mayhem of Marseilles by keeping good humour. We hear a lot about the stress of working and the stress of driving these days, so perhaps we had better be aware of the stress of spectating.

Spectating is a game with its own rules and its own subculture, and if you are not fit then beware, for it is not as easy as it looks. I reckon to be in good shape and I made it through the night — but it was as draining as a marathon.

Maybe, come the next World Cup, I will be out there cheering Michael Owen as the greatest player in the world alongside the new, mature David Beckham in the England team. But if I do, I think I will go into serious training for it. Spectating at this level is a very tough event.

JOHN BRYANT

Owen attracts praise on paper round

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN LYONS

THE world hardly knew where to begin its paeon of praise to Michael Owen yesterday. As one French newspaper put it, he is even world-class at driving. But just as the global search heated up for phrases to do justice to the

young man's talent, so the hunt continued for words that might adequately capture the magnitude of David Beckham's folly. In any language, the condemnation was scathing.

"What a waste," *L'Equipe*, the French sports daily, proclaimed, before disparaging the Manchester United mid-

field player as a fraud. Not surprisingly, the Argentine newspaper, *Olé*, was equally critical, describing his dismissal as "un deshabado total". It hardly needed translation.

Remarkably, there was some support for Beckham that did not emanate from Old Trafford. Tensions could be

raised in the San Siro dressing-room next season after Gianluca Pagliuca attacked Diego Simeone for his part in the dismissal, despite the fact that they are team-mates at Internazionale. "I know Simeone well and he was playing," the Italian goalkeeper said. His view was supported by Fabio Cannavaro, his compatriot. "It was terrible to see Simeone's play-acting, but it was the referee who handled the situation badly," he said. "He could have just booked both of them."

It was in Argentina that criticism of the referee reached its height, however, with *Olé* awarding Kim Milton Nielsen nought out of ten and even claiming that he blundered by awarding a penalty against David Seaman. "The referee was horrible and totally lacked personality. He gave two non-existent penalties," the paper reported.

One of those, of course, was when Nielsen was persuaded by Owen to award England's spot kick, but the Argentinians had been as dazzled by the 18-year-old's precocious gifts as anyone. Giving Owen an award for sportsmanship, *Olé* wrote that, at times, he "was simply unstoppable. The defenders hit him from all sides but he did not complain once. A little gentleman."

For weeks there had been inquiries about the Liverpool teenager from journalists covering the World Cup. "This Owen," they asked, "is he really as good?" By yesterday they had their answer and the trickle of questions had become a deluge. In *L'Equipe*.

Owen sparked the imagination of even their notoriously miserly markers. He was given 8½ out of 10. To put it in perspective, Tony Adams, who played like a colossus, was awarded 6½. Beckham received a rather generous 3.

According to *L'Equipe*, Owen showed all the qualities of a "deceitful comedian"



when he took his tumble in the penalty area, but their praise otherwise was unreserved. "We will remember," their front page headline said above a full-page picture of the England striker.

"We saw a typical English performance," Daniel Passarella, the Argentina coach, said. "There was so much character and they played so hard and so tough. They are a very solid team with two outstanding strikers." But also one temperamental midfielder player. And thanks to him, as *La Gazzetta dello Sport* recorded yesterday in plain English, it was "Bye bye England".

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

SEMICHA

(a) The laying-on of hands by which a rabbi is ordained; the ordination of a rabbi. Also, a diploma of rabbinical ordination. The Hebrew word means literally "leaning".

TOUTOU

(a) A pet name for a dog, especially a lap-dog.

WOGGLE

(a) A loop or ring of leather, cord, etc., through which the ends of a Scott's neckerchief are threaded. We used to carve ours as grotesque heads out of willow branches, with a twig for nose and coloured pins for eyes. Origin unknown, but cf. toggle.

SUNYATA

(a) In Buddhist theology, the concept of the essential emptiness of all things and of ultimate reality as a void beyond worldly phenomena. The Sanskrit word means "emptiness", "non-existence".

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Bb3 and White is quickly mated, eg. 2. Qxb7 Bxg2 3. Kxg2 gxb2 4. Kh1 hsg1Q checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A dangerous game to play

Imogen's Pace
ITV, 9.00pm

There may be no statistics on the subject but it is a reasonable guess that not many happily-married women four months pregnant embark on an affair with a man 30 years their senior. Except, perhaps, in the fictional world of Andrea Newman, she of *A Woman of Barbed Wire* and other steamy sagas of sexual cross-patterning. In Newman's latest, Samantha Janus plays Imogen, the pregnant wife, with John Rowe as her lover. To keep the liaison going, Imogen tries to enlist the help of her sister Amanda (Lia Williams). But there is friction between them, as Imogen has always been the beauty and Amanda the plain one. Amanda, moreover, is desperate for a child of her own. Throw in the sisters' parents from hell (Michael Byrne, Claire Bloom) and you have the ingredients of sex, guilt, envy and unhappy families.

Cradle to Grave: The Drop Dead Show
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Davina McCall, of ITV's *Don't Try This at Home*, hosts a programme about living and dying which uses the format of a quiz show to put across serious points in a jocular fashion. Some of the material is relatively light-hearted, testing our national predisposition towards hypochondria or getting a contestant with a fear of dentists to have his teeth checked in the studio. But the huge inequalities in health in Britain are no laughing matter. One of the "games" reveals that where you live can be fatal and names cities having high concentrations of certain diseases. The show also highlights a government report which found that life expectancy from birth to be seven years higher among professional families than families of manual workers.

Big Women
Channel 4, 10.00pm

The opening episode of Fay Weldon's four-parter about women who set up a publishing house is heavy on feminist rhetoric and a little short on dramatic insight. You feel the characters have been devised to represent a point of view, rather than to function as individuals. Every shade of the wimmin debate is here. But the narrative is never



Samantha Janus as Imogen, who seems to have everything (BBC1, 9pm)

less than lively, notably when the women meet for a wine and Marxism party, take in too much of the former and not enough of the latter and fling off their clothes in joyous abandon. Out of these deliberations comes the Medusa Press, born in harmony but destined to grow up in discord. Daniela Nardini, from *This Life*, and Anastasia Hille play the leaders of the group, with Annabelle Apsion as their intellectual ballast and Kelle Spry as the dogbody who rises to account. The male characters are few and marginal.

X-Rated Ricki
Channel 4, 11.00pm

From tonight the Ricki Lake show now comes in two versions, though at first glance it may be difficult to tell the difference between them. *X-Rated Ricki*, as the title suggests, covers shows considered unsuitable for Ricki's normal Channel 4 slot in the middle of the afternoon. In a week where the raucous Ricki has featured grotesquely overweight drag queens and people with partners older than their mothers, such cynicism may seem unnecessary. On the other hand, Michael and Amy, tonight's stars, might send young tongues wagging were they to appear on the screen just as children were coming home from school. Michael and Amy are engaged and want to have children. They are also bisexual and intend to maintain their same-sex relationships. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams
Radio 4, 2.15pm

This *Afternoon Play* will have a particular interest for women, though it is by no means exclusive. Indeed, audiophiles who sometimes complain that radio does not explore its full sound potential will also enjoy this, for it uses most interesting music (by Clive Bell) as background to the narrative. The story is set in the early part of the 19th century in a part of Japan, "so remote that it lies beyond the end of the Great East Road". Lady Sarashina, born in 1808, wrote a memoir late in life and this dramatisation, by Ponnine Clayton from a translation by Ivan Morris, evokes with great clarity Sarashina's frustration at the severe limitations placed on the life of women at that time.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zeb 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 Steve Lamacq 6.42 Live Music Now 7.00 John Peel 8.00 Radio 1 Sessions by Culture and the Blood and Fire Sound System 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Wren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 8.30 Ian Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 David Allen 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Stand Up 2 9.30 The Russ Abbot Show 10.00 The Long Voyage Home 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Madden 5.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Wimbledon 98. John Inverdale presents action from the women's singles semi-finals, plus a full round-up of the day's other sports. Includes at 7.00 News Extra 8.00 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. David Gower and his guests are in Manchester tonight at the end of the first day of the third Test at Old Trafford 9.00 Inside Edge 10.00 Late Night 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Paul Coyte 7.30 Ray Coles 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Calvin Jones 5.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am The New Talk Radio Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Reesman 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 Bill Overton

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes a review of Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical, *Whistle Down the Wind*. Plus: Radio 3 Concerto (de Esch); Handel (Nisi Domini); 6.00 Masterworks. Includes Lalo (Overture); Le roi d'Yvetot (Two Arabesques); Haydn (Siring); 9.00 In D minor, Op. 41; Debussy (Symphony No. 9 in E minor, From the New World); 10.30 Artist of the Week: Margaret Price; 11.30 Second Step: Five Novellists — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe; 12.00 Composer of the Week: Barber; 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: Mozart in the City. The third of eight programmes, Martin Quartet, Endellion Quartet, Mozart (String Quartet in D minor, K421, in E flat, K428); 2.00 The BBC Orchestra, Ulfar Ockers under Gary Cooper and Lionel Friend, Borodinsky; 3.00 Greengrass, Schubert (Symphony No. 4 in C minor); Wagner (Mörike-Lieder); Schubert, orch. Mott (Fantasia in F minor, D940); Schubert (Symphony No. 4); 4.00 The Piano, with Piers Lane (I); 4.45 Music Machine, with Verity Shepp; 5.00 In Tune, Sean Rafferty talks to Sir Peter Hall about his new production of *Simon Boccanegra*

7.30 Performance on Three: Lloyds Bank Young Conductors. Stephanie Hughes introduces the final concert, given last February in Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Leon McCreesh, piano. BBC Philharmonic, under Ruman Gamba, Timothy Redmond and Stuart Stratford. Britten *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Ruman Gamba (Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor); Rimsky-Korsakov (Capriccio espagnol); Debussy (La Mer)

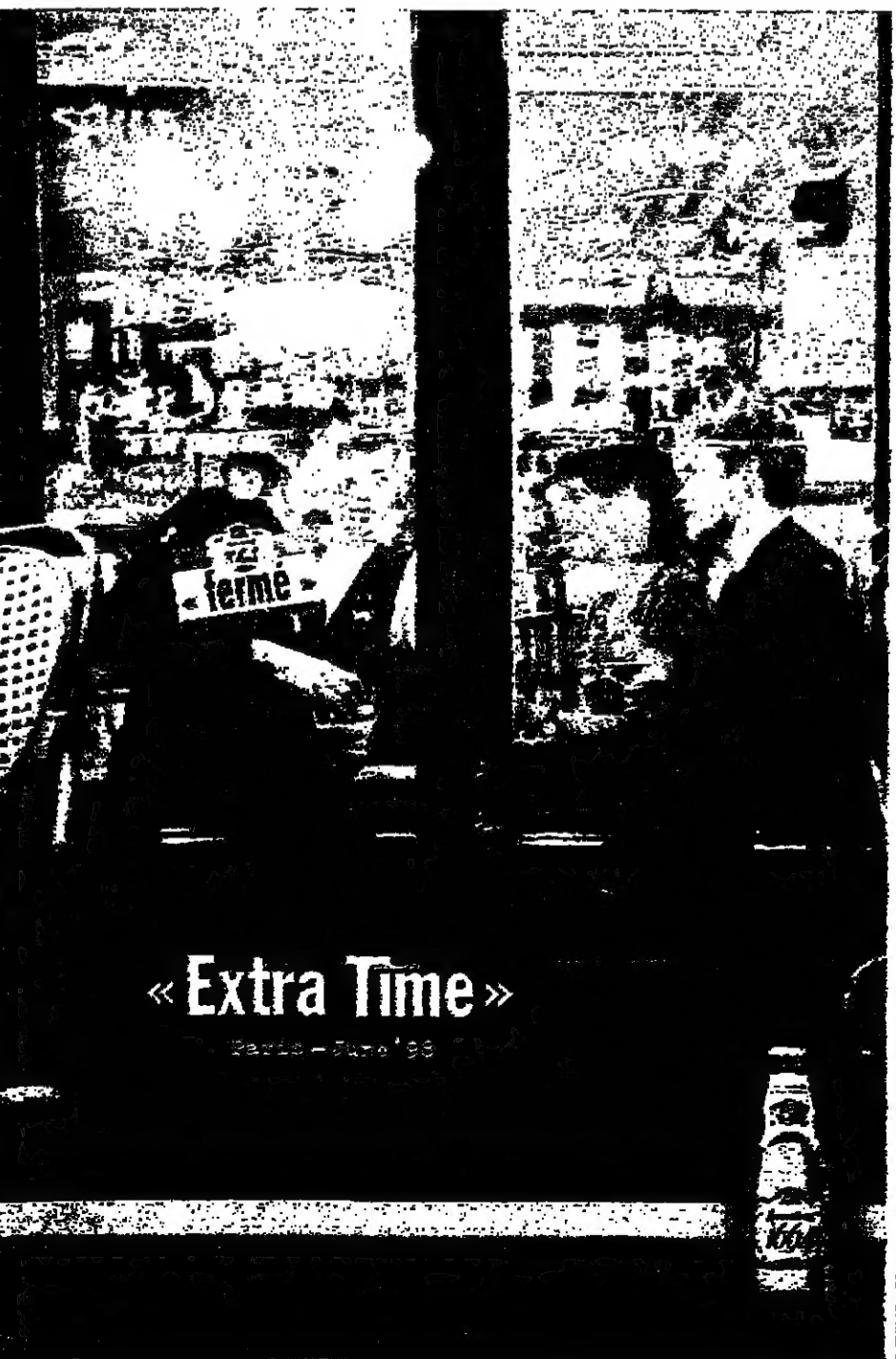
5.15 Postscript: This American Life. Ian Peacock meets the fearsome Dr Laura Schlesinger who introduces a no-nonsense family values phone-in advocating stern, absolute morality. 9.35 Music of the American Revolution. Literally songs by William Billings and Abraham Wood, performed by the Continental Harmony Singers. 10.00 Music Restored. Chris de Souza introduces highlights of a concert of 18th-century French chamber music by Couperin, Rameau and others. 10.45 Night Waves. Paul Allen discusses the Royal Academy's exhibition, Chagall: Love and Stage. 11.30 Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather. 12.00 Composer of the Week: C.P.E. Bach. 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor. Includes 6.45 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.25 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 A Hard Act to Follow. Radio 4 talks to the writer and self-styled Essex man Toby Young, son of renowned social reformer Lord Michael Young. 9.30 The Last Art of Connoisseurship. Former connoisseurs recall their contrasting experiences. 9.45 (FM) Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle. Michael Williams reads episodes from Martin Booth's biography (4/5). 9.45 (LW) Daily Service. 10.00 News; Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray. 11.00 Health Watch. The story of a political battle to get the NHS off the ground in 1948. In the first of two programmes, Polly Toynbee talks to some of those who founded the health service and hear about the struggles marking its birth. 11.00 (LW) Test Match Special: England v South Africa. Commentary on the first day's play in the third Test Old Trafford. 11.30 (FM) Rint 4. Lucy Flannery's comedy, with Barbara Flynn, Patrick Barlow, Vivien Rochester, David Walliams and Simon Pegg (6/6). 12.00 (FM) News; You and Yours. 12.00pm (LW) News; Test Match Special. 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke. 1.30 (LW) Test Match Special. 1.30 Puzzle Panel. Chris Masdoni invites listeners to try to outwit each other with their best brain-teasers, riddles and logic problems. 2.00 (FM) News; The Archers (I). 2.15 (FM) Afternoon Play: As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams. A self-portrait of a comedy writer. Japanese woman. With Annabelle Apsion and Kazuko Hoshi. See Choice. 3.00 (FM) News; Call Your Name. 3.30 (FM) Elementary My Dear Nanking. Why does

television and police dramas so appealing? 3.45 (FM) Crime Stories: Unlucky at Love, Unlucky at Cards, by Ian Rankin. Read by Billy Reddock. 4.00 (LW) Test Match Special. 4.30 (FM) News; Law in Action. 4.30 (FM) The Material World. 5.00 (FM) PM 5.54 (LW) Shopping 5.57 Weather. 6.00 (FM) Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Booked. Ian McEwan charts a new series of the reversion writing game. Regular panelists Mark Thomas and Dore Keaney are joined by Mark Sadleir and Miles Kingston. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.15 Front Row, with Mark Lawson. 7.45 Under One Roof: Under Pressure (I). 8.00 News; What If? A look at how the history of medicine in Britain could have turned out differently without the introduction of the NHS. 8.30 The Week in Westminster. The Times columnist Peter Riddell takes a look behind the scenes at Westminster. 9.00 News; Hotlinks. Jez Nelson asks if there will be a high-tech medical future in which robots will perform operations. 9.30 A Hard Act to Follow. Dana Madill talks to the writer Toby Young (I). 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet and Black. 11.00 Late Night on 4: On Baby Street. Jue Baloo and Jenny Eckel's comedy drama about mothers living in the same street. 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. 11.30 (FM) Summertime by Bells. See Choice. 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Bombay tea, by Leslie Forbes (4/10). 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service. 5.30 World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Farming Today, with Charlotte Smith

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.5-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 89.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 158. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 999, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648. LW 136 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



«Extra Time»

Parish - June 1998

هكذا من الأصل

